

# LIMITLESS



**A COURSE IN RELEASING CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE**

WRITTEN BY  
CHARITY BOWMAN WEBB



# LIMITLESS

RELEASING CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

CHARITY BOWMAN WEBB

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# ENDORSEMENTS

This course was based on the book 'Limitless, God's Creative Mandate for His church', published in 2013

A few years ago there was a challenge to walk with Jesus on the "Unknown Path". This path was only accessible as we went "lower still" on our faces in humble submission and adoration of Jesus. It was a pathway that allowed for the full release of Heaven's resources to accomplish Heaven's redemptive plans. On this pathway no-one would know how to "achieve" anything, because it was all down to complete obedience to the Word of the Lord. I believe that in Limitless we have something of what this radical pathway will look and feel like. Here Charity Bowman-Webb has released something of beauty and dynamism of the creative missionary movement that starts in the heart of God and flows out through his children to a world crying out for hope, life, joy and love. Limitless is for all those who in their hearts have said "YES!" to Jesus even before they have heard His question. As you read this book it will trigger a radical shift in your heart, mind and spirit; it is a catalyst to release the waves of creative Kingdom thinking and living which will bring in the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen.

Alan McWilliam

Chairman of CLAN (Christians Linked Across the Nation), Scotland UK

A few years ago when I was pastoring a very prophetic church, the Lord started talking to us about the need for something different in the prayer room. He took us to the story of Moses holding up his staff while Joshua and the Israelites were fighting Amalek. His hands grew weary, and both Aaron and Hur held them up, because as long as the staff was raised the Israelites were victorious. The Lord pointed out to us that we (the church as a whole) knew a lot about the intercession represented by Aaron, but we needed to learn about the intercession represented by Hur, because both would be needed for victory in the coming season. He led us to understand that the intercession of Hur was the integration of creativity, contemplative prayer, and the



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prophetic. I believe that what Charity has tapped into is that very stream, the combination of the presence of God in creativity released through faithful servants of Christ.

This book is revelatory in multiple senses of the word, and it carries the prophetic edge that comes when eternal truth is revealed by the eternal God into a specific person for a specific generation. It reveals the revelation, not only in the truths communicated, but also with explanation of the ways God gave that revelation.

It is also creative in multiple ways; it not only shares the heartbeat of our Creator, but it shares it with creative language. From my personal relationship with Charity I can tell you that she is creative and understands the beautiful metaphorical language of our Father, but as you read this book you will not need me to tell you that; you will hear it for yourself. Metaphors that echo the language of the prophetic writers of Scripture pepper this book in just the right way.

If you are a creative person and do not know how to express that in the church and what your place in the kingdom is, this book will help you. If you feel you are not creative, I am sure that you know people that are; this book will help you to encourage and exhort them to step into the place that God has desired for them to fill, while it draws out your own creativity almost accidentally.

If you are a leader in the church, please read this book. Creativity has been diminished in the church, misunderstood, and even vilified by those that did not understand this gift God gave His bride. We desperately need creativity to rise to the level that God intends so that the church will dream again, dream of good works that God created for us beforehand. Come, be a part of a reformation that has already started!

John E Thomas

Founder and Director of Life Empowerment Ministries, USA

Charity's prophetic call and training have allowed her to be in the forefront of a shift that is taking place in the body of Christ right now and to call it once again to be reconnected with our God, who is limitless in His creativity. Charity rightly understands the role, purpose and function of creativity for this shift and how the Holy Spirit will use this to refresh and renew His people once again, transform His church and reach a lost world with His caring love. I commend her book to you. It will light a fire of passion and possibilities in you that can be limitless for the glorious days that lie ahead for the church!

Cynthia Hayes, North Atlantic Dreams Ministry, CLAN Women Leadership

Thank you Charity for this stimulating read. And thank you God for your limitless invitation to go higher and deeper in You and to search the breadth and length of Your love and riches. This book has certainly challenged me to do just that.

Ruth Raller, Pastor of Kings Fellowship, Inverness, Scotland

## ENDORSEMENTS

We are in the midst of an inventive cultural transformation. Limitless is a bridge called “relevant”. Charity Bowman Webb is a gifted writer, plunging us into the depths of our Creator God and catapulting us upward through the roadblocks of history. In this book we are presented with insights and practical strategies. Expect your imagination to be fuelled for superluminal flight into spaces yet to be filled. A Brilliant , Must Read for All!

Susan Card

Visual Artist, Co-leader of the Advancing Art Team

MorningStar Ministries, Fort Mill SC, USA

The question before us is: shall we advance into a “limitless” future of spiritual/physical innovation and freedom, or hold fast to a complacent well-meaning status quo? In fact the future cannot be met without this choice! In this text Charity Bowman Webb provides much of the contextual information and understanding in facing this choice. Her personal experience and probing research are balanced by a distinct ability to clearly communicate without the hollow tone of self-appointed expertise or hyperbole, which is truly refreshing in the subject of arts and the church. Indeed the next reformation is knocking .....

Greg Card

Visual Strategist/artist, Co-leader of the Advancing Art Team

MorningStar Ministries, Fort Mill SC, USA

Reading this book is like listening to Charity talk, but with the benefit of having time to appreciate what she is saying. Charity sometimes uses a different vocabulary than I normally use, but it makes me think. I’ve watched her over the years, and she pays the price for going deeper without getting flakey.

Thom Raller, Sr Pastor of Kings Fellowship, Inverness, Scotland

I have seldom read black letters on white pages so bursting with colour! That is a characteristic of the authoress who has a masterful grasp of colour and a masterful grasp of joy. Among the aims of this book are to start many conversations about the creativity inherent in all people; to stir and encourage many of those people to overcome all their inhibitions about creative expression, their perceived limitations, whether self-imposed, culturally imposed, or ecclesiastically imposed, and to enter into the truly Limitless joy and fruitfulness of creativity available to them. It is written for followers of Jesus, present and future; it helps to break down the false concept between “your Christian life” and “your other life” – creativity belongs everywhere! I highly commend both the writer and the book to you.

Rick Hayes, Director of North Atlantic Dreams Ministry, Scotland



## LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

Influence is a weighty thing. Spiritual influence adds the weight of God and His eternal realm to the equation. Charity Bowman Webb in her book *Limitless: God's Mandate for His Church* climbs the wall to sound a trumpet to encourage the release of the creativity of the church and to follow the notes over the walls to take our place on the mountains of societal influence. She communicates the connection of Bezalel ("In the Shadow of God"), the wise master craftsman whom God chose to make a reality of the blueprints of His tabernacle and the Wisdom of Proverbs 8 – that combination of purity and creativity that was present at creation. Charity pursues a spiritually defined view of wisdom with creativity as so needed in these times for right influence.

This stream of creative influence flowed in the lives of Joseph, Daniel and Paul who declared himself to be a wise master builder, the apostle architect of the emerging church of the New Testament. In Genesis 49, Jacob prophesied his son Joseph's roots from the springs of God to his branches that would go over the wall for the blessing of many in a time of desperate need. In those desperate times God did a work of creative influence that transcended a time of world famine and went unto eternal mode as He arranged a craftsman to preserve His chosen people. The baseball player Yogi Berra quipped "It's like deja vu all over again". Indeed today, the spiritual vacancies on the tops of mountains and walls of arts, government, education and the marketplace are crying in the Spirit to be filled. Humpty Dumpty has fallen and all the earthy resources of "kings" cannot put it together again.

We are called to fill bigger shoes than previously thought, as we dare to grapple with our genesis design that we too are under His shadow. With dirt-under-her-nails experience as an artist, an innovative prophetic outreach leader to the counter-culture and the raw transparency of her own experience in the art and design world, Charity paints a credible vision of hope and encouragement for those with the courage to pursue our God's limitless vision for these end times.

The world is waiting for us.

Rob Mazza

Leader and Founder of Destiny Workshops, USA

Board of Elijah House Ministries, USA



# FOREWORD

BONNIE CHAVDA

This course was based on the book 'Limitless, God's Creative Mandate for His church', published in 2013

I have had the privilege and pleasure of getting to know Charity in her home as wife and mother, and to observe and work with her in the ministry. A trained professional designer, Charity is a vibrant, inspired woman of God and servant of the Lord and His church. Classically trained in Christian disciplines and with two decades of professional practice working as a designer, Charity carries a weight of glory and experience that she is giving away as "freely" as she has received it!

Without a doubt we live in an era of the revival of spiritual gifts and arts of every kind. The eye gate was the most respected influence early Christians considered as influential. They were ardent devotees to what they took in to their heart and life through their eyes. Second to that was devotion to what they heard. In the new epoch of global telecommunication, the whole world is literally a stage and every person with any kind of electronic digital tools is a performer. The access and possibilities are limitless. Limitless: God's Creative Mandate for His Church is a record of Charity's personal journey onto that stage.

She says "our creative DNA lies before us in God's outstretched hand" to energize our lives and influence with new solutions, strategies, and innovations. She challenges us that God's wisdom is expressed in beauty. A poem included in Limitless says:

*"We are all artists  
Commissioned to draw one thing –  
Draw close to him.  
This is the colour-filled art of the heart."*



## LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

Fellowshipping, worshipping, and working together with her, I see that Charity is a Spirit renaissance woman! Her inspiration and knowledge communicated in Limitless reminds me of the landscape of her homeland, Scotland. The mandate she has accepted from her Father and Creator is one of a lover's tender kiss and of the high flung wind of the Breath of God. In striking colors, contrasts, ancient and new, sometimes in shadow and sometimes in sparkling sunlight, from rushing river to hidden glen, heather-covered heights to castle-dotted shoreline, her inspiration pours through the pages of her journal. She invites us to listen and step in to one of the most important hours of cultural shift occurring in our world.

Our Shepherd-Lover stands and knocks. Who will listen and open? Perhaps you. That's exactly what Charity did. The fruit of taking up the artisan's call to worship in expressive innovation has led her to experience what Bezalel must have when he was handed heavenly blueprints for creation of the Tabernacle where God would sit enthroned as King and join the revelry of worship. In her spirit, her work, her art, in her home, in her church, and in her ministry beyond, Charity has discovered that we are all limitless when we collaborate with the limitless Father. We can receive solutions and innovative ideas that transform our grid for evangelism and Kingdom growth, increasing significance for all roles in the Kingdom as an integral part of restoring value for people where they are already positioned.

*Ask of me and I will give you the nations for an inheritance. Psalm 2:8*

Culture now and future is being created every minute. As Limitless reminds us "New combinations of the arts and creativity, throughout many spheres, will become important; not only for breaking individualism, but bringing something from heaven's store house that will completely surprise us. As the world systems shake and the gospel message magnifies in the earth, the Lord is bending over His beloved as a formidable, phenomenal, creative, limitless, warrior bride".

Charity's insights, suggestions, lessons learned, and revelations received, make Limitless a handbook for every believer, layman to leader, an invitation to enter the conversation and decide to step onto the platform of creative expression of the beauty, gifts, and power of God's Spirit now.

Bonnie Chavda  
Co-Founder & Senior Pastor, All Nations Church  
The Watch of the Lord  
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA



# OVERVIEW

As soon as we hear the word 'creativity', we often step aside and open the door for 'arty people'.

BUT God planted a creative DNA in every single one of us; the bible resounds with proof. Through Joseph and Daniel, David and Solomon, genius was evident that we have grown to know and respect. However, what we may not realise is this genius fully activated their God given creative DNA. We have lost the understanding of what this is, it was gifted to us to use as a glorious weapon -a firepower so that God's people could excel to help a world that so desperately needs the creative ideas and solutions of heaven.

If you believe you were created by God... this course is for you!

## **THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU:**

- To understand what the creativity of God is with biblical evidence of its importance and characteristics.
- Find your God given creative DNA, then stir and release this within you
- Connect with God more deeply by exploring parts of His creative character
- Understand the expansive and varied language of God more fully
- Identify the role and purpose of God's creativity for the Church and mission

## **THE COURSE CONTAINS:**

- Teaching sessions
- Interactive exercises
- Suggested homework assignments
- Extra reading notes





# LOST

## THE INTRODUCTON

The ledge is high above the earth beneath, hovering over the immense valley; the surrounding sky is on fire. Crimson and sulfur red, saffron and orange flame, enveloping furnace colours, and I know we are looking forward. He turns and says, 'You know things are about to change right?'. 'I know, but I don't understand this the way you do', I understate the fact. Who could know the way God does? But what are we looking at? What lies before us and how is it hidden in this depth of sulfuric beauty? My mind cannot reach; it barely knows where to start, as I leave the ledge behind me and walk into the vast empty space before, filled with the nervous unknown, lined with grace.

There is only one way to live in the glory of who He is: it is to embrace the fire. We were not meant to live barely flickering, but fully lit, vivid and brilliant in the wonder of God, a limitless source of limitless power. This is life's burning imperative, to find more of who God is, more of why He created us to walk beside Him, to find the cadence of heaven.

Sometimes it is simply about timing and redeeming what is lost, waiting for the sons and daughters of God to know who they really are (Romans 8:19). When they find out, courage is the key that opens an armory in heaven again. Yet, if you have ever walked through an armory of the Spirit, the weapons may have surprised you. Amongst the classic swords and shields, did anyone happen to see a song, a paint brush or a dancer's shoe, a surgeon's knife, a skilful spreadsheet or a business strategy?

Surely these are not weapons, some labeled 'value unknown'. From the shelves of heaven the creative mandate is being dusted off and returned to the earth. Its timing and purpose has arrived and we are about to discover roads to revelation, codes to crack enemy lines and pathways to the solutions the world so desperately seeks. I guess that takes me back to the ledge. What lies before us are heavenly road maps that beckon the journey; it is the glory of kings to seek them out.



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*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. Proverbs 25:2*

Timely defining of our creative DNA lies before us in God's outstretched hand. There are two directives: there is the general outpouring of Kingdom Creativity available to all believers to energize their lives and areas of influence producing new solution, strategy and innovation. There is also the calling of the Creative Warriors, the artisans who combine skill and anointing for specific reason. The hour strikes a wake up call for both and their intertwining purposes in the nations - strategic objectives in the times that lie ahead.



# VITAL

*It's a journey to address the filling of some empty spaces and intensify  
a fascination to probe the chambered character of God's heart.*

## THE MISSING POWERHOUSE

In the church or in places in the world, we see a level of spiritual creativity, a measure of the arts, invention or innovation. But it is beneath this layer in the abyssal vaults of the Spirit that we find a substance of creativity of such gravity that it reveals the Creator far beyond our current perception. There are facets of His character and power that await discovery. This is where we can fill creative capacity and reach far beyond our current limitation. This is how to achieve longevity without the constant cycle of arduous repetition that feels depleted. Our mandate is to worship God and reach the world around us for Jesus, and surely great keys are to be fresh, relevant, creative and powerful. It is time to open the vaults in heaven and stir ourselves to find out what's in there.

A great void of the spectrum of the arts and creativity has become the norm in many of our church communities, yet the world around us is bursting with all sorts of creativity and people are responding to it.

'When the creativity of the Lord is absent it makes room for the religious spirit which wants to do things over and over again.' Larry Randolph<sup>1</sup>

The more freedom we allow the Spirit, the more freedom we will find for ourselves. We are to be the temple for the Holy Spirit living in us (1 Corinthians 3:16), not the walls; but we can become the walls, the parameters, as we set boundaries and limitations for God.

We need to allow the Holy Spirit  
new levels of freedom

We can be afraid to explore.

If we would make our goal to listen and sync with the Spirit of God then new ideas would not scare us because this is the essence of who He is: creative and expansive.

**Jeremiah 29:11–13** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*

## WHAT IS CREATIVITY?

We have lost understanding of what the creativity of God actually is; we often consign it to the art box.

## INCLUDED

We are ALL creative and we can all be creative  
through the Spirit in various ways

It is NOT just for the arts; it is in ideas, solutions, strategy, medical breakthroughs, mathematical formulas, teaching, relationships, families, mission, worship and more.

Creativity is the desire and ability to bring into being something that was not there before.

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

## VITAL

The first line of the bible introduces us to a critical part of God's character that He wanted us to understand: He is a Creator.

Think about how creative God is (Psalm 96:5b).

Genesis reveals that creativity is part  
of the nucleus of God's nature

Then He made mankind.

**Genesis 1:26-28** *Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness'.*

We are made in His image so we carry Godly creative ability in some way.

Through Creation, God tries to reveal His nature to us all the time. Yet often, we need to translate the creative, symbolic language of a God who is full of visual conversation and meaning.

## MISSING AN INHERITANCE

As God's army, we are missing a wealth and inheritance of powerful creativity banked up for us. It is hidden right in front of us – not intentionally hidden by God, but hidden through our lack of knowledge, lack of understanding, lost in the twists of history. When the church moves to grasp it, there will be a release of new boldness, healing, understanding, effectiveness and power.

### Definition

Dictionary definitions for create and creative expand our understanding of its attributes:

*\* The ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods and interpretations; originality, progressiveness, or imagination.*



## LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

- \* *To bring into existence (Genesis 1:1), to produce through imaginative skill.*
- \* *To make or bring into existence something new, having the quality of something created rather than imitated.*
- \* *To cause to come into being, as something unique that would not naturally evolve or that is not made by ordinary processes.*

*Related words are:*

- \* *Clever, cool, deviceful, fertile, formative, gifted, ingenious, innovative, inspired, inventive, leading-edge, original, productive, prolific, stimulating, visionary, way out.*

*Interestingly the opposite words are:*

- \* *Uncreative, ungifted, unimaginative, unproductive, untalented.<sup>2</sup>*

**Which words do you think best describe God?**

**Which category do you think best describes yourself and the Christians you know?**

## DOES IT MATTER?

**ADVERTISING:** It has been estimated that most children watch around 20,000 thirty-second adverts every year in the US, while your average American spends twenty times more of their time on media consumption activity than in religious activity. Many magazines are hugely funded by adverts.

**FILM AND TV:** In 2012, Hollywood box office sales were \$10.8 billion and that was just for cinema tickets – let alone the amount of films watched at home in an age of home entertainment systems. In Britain, 97% of UK homes have digital TVs. The average number of hours spent in front of the television by adults each day is 2 hours 40 minutes.

**MUSIC:** By September 2012, 350 million iPods had been sold. The iTunes Store opened on 28 April 2003; it has been the biggest music vendor in the world since February 2010, and offers over 26 million songs, videos, e-books and apps for sale online. Its revenue for the first quarter of 2011 totalled nearly \$1.4 billion, and by February 2013 the store had sold 25 billion songs. It is available in 119 countries. In 2012 the store had 400 million active user accounts, and served over 315 million mobile devices, including iPods, iPhones and iPads.

**INTERNET/SOCIAL MEDIA:** In 2013 Ofcom recorded that 21.7 million people in the UK have broadband connections and 55% of adults with home internet use social networking. Many people use the internet and facilities such as YouTube to watch and exchange video clips and website links.<sup>3</sup>

Many minds and imaginations are being shaped by media and creative input.

## VITAL

### EDUCATION

Our Western society particularly has often educated us to separate creativity from other areas of education.

We are ALL designed by God to be creative. So what is this creativity for, and why do we feel its loss when it must be stored in the dusty attic through the pressures of life?

Regardless of the arena you work in or the destiny on your life, if you have the Holy Spirit living inside you, you have God's creative power within your very being. You are supposed to be gifted, ingenious, innovative, inspired, inventive, original, productive, prolific, stimulating. We may all release this in different ways and in different fields, but the point remains that these attributes are part of our Godly DNA.

### LEFT AND RIGHT BRAIN

According to the theory of left-brain or right-brain dominance, each side of the brain controls different types of thinking. Additionally, people are said to prefer one type of thinking over the other, thus forming skills and interests. However, this research is very much a work in progress, and although there are distinctions, using both the areas of the brain is now believed to have a much more effective outcome at times, depending on the task or ideas required. For example, recent research shows that abilities in subjects such as math are actually strongest when both halves of the brain work together.

There are no absolutes in the left- and right-brain theory, but it does give us a helpful grid in trying to understand our unique abilities and also the way that we approach and handle life.

The left side of the brain is considered to be adept at tasks involving logic, language clarity, analytical thinking, numbers, reasoning and strategic thinking, with the characteristics of being methodical, systematic and controlled.

The right side of the brain is said to be best at expressive, creative and artistic tasks, to be more intuitive, thoughtful and subjective, better at recognizing faces, expressing emotions and reading them in others; passionate, imaginative and spontaneous.

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We can over-generalize, but these descriptions can be helpful in our understanding of thought progression. It is also extremely rare that someone would only have the characteristics of one side of the brain, so while we may favor one side more, generally we will have characteristics from both sides, and indeed we can practice developing many areas to give a stronger balance.

In recent decades our education systems have favored the development of left-brain characteristics, particularly in high school.

People who consider themselves lacking creativity today may just be lacking past opportunity and education to have developed it

God made each of us different, but He did give each of us a left and right side of the brain and the creative DNA of the Creator. We can all be innovative or original, whether within the field of business or sculpture, media, teaching or whatever.

## HEARING FROM GOD

The characteristics of the right side of the brain are a prolific aid to being able to communicate with God.

The Bible is written in a very creative, symbolic way and does not lend itself purely to reason and logic

When the right brain is in communication with the Creator, it can help us to decipher this figurative language with its enigmas, hidden mysteries and pictorial aids

Large sections of the Bible were written in the original form of the Hebrew language, and some of its earliest books were written using a pictographic script like other ancient writing systems that have been discovered.<sup>4</sup>

## VITAL

Mark Virkler states in his book 'How to hear God's Voice':

*'Corresponding to the idolization of logic is the demise of creativity, which is a more right-brain function involving vision, intuition and visualization. Statistics show that almost all children rank high in creativity before they enter school at age five. By age 7, only 10% still have high creativity, and by the time we are adults, only 2% score high in creativity tests. Therefore what we are doing in the current educational system is essentially reducing the creative ability that God has placed within man. I believe it is because we are training the left side of the brain (the logical, analytical part) and stifling the right side of the brain (the intuitive imaginative side). Where in scripture do we see God suggesting we do this? I suspect God gave us two sides of our brains so we could offer both sides to Him to use.'*<sup>5</sup>

The enemy will try to devalue anything that could be a powerful weapon for God's Kingdom. He has sought to establish a stronghold of intellect, mind, will and reason that prevents us having a deeper connection and understanding of God.

## GOD'S CREATIVE LANGUAGE

Around a third of the Bible refers to dreams and visions.

In biblical times it was not thought unusual for God to speak to people in dreams and they were greatly valued. God even chose dreams to protect the life of the infant Jesus (Matthew 1:18-24).

**God speaks to us in numerous and diverse ways, and many times it is not in plain speech.**

The Word of God becomes dry and arduous if read through the filter of pure logic and intellect, making no room for the Holy Spirit to breathe new life on the layers of hidden wisdom and divine understanding.

The Word of God is like a brain with a multitude of connective pathways across a vast volume of information that is written, but also networked, to the realm of the Holy Spirit. It requires the Spirit to bring understanding into its pages, transposing its two-dimensional form into a multidimensional one full of interplay, history, symbolism and hidden message.

It is written in such a supernaturally creative way that pouring it through the sieve of logic and rationale will reduce it to its lowest form, disconnecting us from a sense of close proximity to the One who created this incredible work of Spirit life.



We are seated in heavenly places.

**Ephesians 2:6 NIV** *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.*

## PERCEPTION

We often base the character of God on our understanding  
and experience of the Christian life.  
We can limit Him and assume He is the size of the  
container we put Him in

**The growing awareness of His involvement with our lives is increasingly magnified through the lens of developing relationship.**

We can see through spiritual eyes and live in heavenly places. It is possible for us to live vibrant, wonder-filled lives as we regularly access the realm of the Spirit and live amongst His presence. We need to seek after the deep places of God so that His presence and the experience of God's Kingdom become real to us and the sense of the eternal is tangible.

## IN HOUSE

Much of the arts and fresh creativity of God have become confined in a small space by large parts of the church through history. This has become the expected norm, and we struggle to see the value of God's creativity or its potential for the Kingdom.

**The concept of God is often limited by many people.**

Sometimes it's just parts of His nature we restrict.

## VITAL

The prophetic was once very misunderstood. We are all called to prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:31).

In the 1980s and 1990s ministries began to bring balanced, Biblical understanding to the revelatory gifts. They created a grid for us to comprehend the purpose of the prophetic and its role within the church and our lives.

They outlined the essential development of Godly character needed to bring stability and credibility to this gift and the ministry of the prophet.

The release of fresh creativity that flows through revelatory gifting will be built on such foundations.

Such teaching can help us to understand the communications of God. This is vital in being able to flow with the creativity of heaven.

Spiritual gifts are born in an immature state

**We need to learn and practice the spiritual gifts, to embrace effort and allow a maturation process.**

The arts and new creativity of the Spirit also now stand  
in a place of being very misunderstood as  
the prophetic once was

Some areas of the church consider the arts largely irrelevant.

We can fear what we see as the uncontainable, uncontrollable nature of creativity.

## THE OIL WELL

Lack of understanding for spiritual creativity, and consequently value from within the church, has led to a discouragement of its progress, so now we often see a dearth of it or ill-developed standard.

Yet there is an oil well intended for our resource, waiting for the strike!

There are pockets of believers beginning to explore the restoration of creativity with dynamic effect. It shows not only in the arts being released but in healing, in the miraculous, in the divine wisdom and new revelation of the messages and ideas, the passion for mission and confidence in a life full to bursting with God. There is most definitely a link with creativity.

**But oil needs to be drilled and extracted with intention.**

One of the first steps is to pray for a unity of heart amongst the leadership and the people in a community of believers.

We must not give up just because we cannot  
see today what is coming tomorrow

Sometimes it is not about what we have not done, but spiritual climate and timing.

**We live in the tests of faithfulness to hold position until army unity is ready for advance.**

God is more likely to release the new geysers where people are drilling, preparing with faith and seeking wisdom on how to build the well for longevity.

## PREPARE FOR OIL

The challenge is to make space in our current systems.

## VITAL

**Sometimes our lives and programs have become so time-tight, they are now air-tight to the breath of God.**

We can fill every moment with life's necessities or super-organized church programs. Such patterns can train us to never feel at ease entering the large space of the Spirit, filled with the unknown.

### THE FULL CUPBOARD

Do you have space for something new?

Spend time with God asking Him if there is space that you need to make in your life.

If the answer is yes, ask Him how to do that and be prepared to respond.

### EXERCISE: YOUR PERCEPTION OF CREATIVITY

You can do this exercise with 2 or 3 people or on your own. Share with the group or if you are on your own, write down your answers.

**What is your perception of what creativity is, and how would you define it?**

**Have you considered yourself creative in any way?**



## RISK ORDER

### **Do we want the order of the graveyard or the order of the nursery?**

What is our perception of 'all things decent and in order'? (1 Corinthians 14:40 KJV)

We need to have courage, understanding and willingness to yield some control to release the artistic people and the creative nature of the Holy Spirit in everyone.

It will more likely manifest as the order of the nursery, especially in the initial stages of reclaiming this vital resource.

Are our Christian communities places of life and adventure or places of well-intended regimental order?

A Biblical model has been laid before us many times reminding us that safe, comfortable spaces, small thinking and boxes achieve very little. But faith, courage and absolute conviction that God is with us can make changes through us that generously eclipse our natural ability.

Creativity encompasses a whole area of our humanity that God created within us. In our Christian culture there is a much-needed restoration of this area: the ability to be creative with Him, to bring innovation to the world around us; to effervesce with new life, expressions of worship, ideas for mission, fresh solutions for discipleship and more.

Some people lack passion for church because they see a limited role for themselves in it.

Consider the many creative people who do not yet attend church; they can often perceive church as irrelevant and boring religious culture.

**With the dynamic, creative power of God unleashed, we can also more fully demonstrate His nature to the younger generation and the truth that He is relevant and inspiringly varied.**

## TWO BARRIERS

Two substantial barriers to releasing creativity are:

### 1. REPEATING WHAT THE WORLD HAS DONE

New creative ideas and strategies sometimes lie unconsidered in favor of age-old traditions, even if they are vastly dated, because tradition seems more spiritual than change

Media and artistry can be seen as entertainment and labeled 'worldly'.

The greatest portion of the arts and the wide spectrum of creative gifting have been developed in the world and outside the church for so long now that many in the church believe many are simply for worldly pursuits. But we can redeem and embrace these gifts again so that we can develop the high level of divinely unique creativity that is intended to be our inheritance and weapon.

### 2. POOLS

Another barrier is that Christians with particular gifting can end up pooling in certain places and forming churches known for a concentration of artisans/innovative people, for example, or a high concentration of evangelists.

People gravitate to places where they feel valued

The prophetic, creative people need to be distributed and acknowledged throughout the Body of Christ. Mixing with the other gifting and ministries in the church family can help to sharpen and inspire other gifts and character.

Wisdom is needed and risks taken to allow a greater measure of freedom for new ideas and the arts within the church. The creative, prophetic nature of God may involve a little mess and experimentation, but not anarchy.

There is a pioneering work to be done by some of God's people, the reclamation of ground stolen, God's ground, and it is time for it to be re-established in the church.

## MISSING

**There was a time when powerful expressions of creativity and art were used constantly within the church, and it was the very place to go to see the greatest works of art and architecture that demonstrated God's glory and majesty.**

Such was its importance that budgets reflected the conviction that creativity and craftsmanship were an essential contribution to the dynamic of the church.

The first European renaissance emerged in the late Middle Ages, around the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and flourished till the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A force of great revival thrived through art, literature and the learning of new concepts and theologies. It was a cultural movement that marked the transition from medieval times to the modern age swiftly spreading throughout Europe.

In stark contrast, the High Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) embraced Latin scholastic education for men that focused on practical and scientific studies, preparing them for professions such as doctors, lawyers or professional theologians. In the successive period of history it was fresh creativity that spurred progressive thinking in entirely new ways, part of an era that allowed the exploration of human emotion and expression, knowledge and understanding, opening the way to many advances in areas of culture. The arts played a critical role within this renaissance.

However, humanism advanced emphasizing and exploring the importance of human beings becoming increasingly independent from God, gradually replacing faith as the dominant inspiration behind the arts.

Later in this time frame the Protestant Christian community started to rebel against the Catholic Church's control and, although there was surely some positive impact from this movement, a lack of understanding for the arts was carried by the new Reformers. They rejected Catholic traditions, which for them included the development of the arts, with the exception of music.

We live in the fall-out: hundreds of years that have embraced the exclusion of the creative spectrum, handing it to the world with little objection, allowing the rise of this potent force outside the care of the church.

## VITAL

### MANIFOLD

God is speaking to us of a new renaissance rising, the intention to pour out His Spirit upon His people through expressions of original and revitalized creativity so that He would be evidenced to the world more completely.

As a collective church, if we only reveal isolated parts of God through our limited perceptions and the grid of our cultural History, we should realize that some people will not respond to these parts alone.

**They are waiting for the sons of men to discover who they really are (Romans 8:19).**

There are people lost and waiting for the missing aspects of God to emerge through the church; this will be testimonial to them of their Creator

**We need to explore and define various strands:**

There is the general provision of Kingdom creativity for all God's people to invigorate their lives and areas of influence producing new solution, strategy, idea and passion for God.

There is also the timely defining of the calling for the creative warriors who combine high-level skill, anointing and call for specific purposes.

### WISDOM

As we look closer at the Word, we find a combination of factors and a repeating pattern used at some of the critical places in man's historical connections with God

**We can access an increase in heavenly wisdom and understanding.**

Wisdom is thought to be about logic and reason.

Creativity is often considered to be the arts and good ideas.

In Proverbs 8:22–31, Wisdom, which is a part of God, speaks in the form of a being, a persona:

*The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep, When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men.*

Creation is so intricate; scientists and zoologists testify to an astounding system that sustains and reproduces life with designed intention that continues to confound.

## CRAFTSMAN

**Proverbs 8:30** proclaims the persona of Wisdom to be a ‘**master craftsman**’, which describes someone highly skilled at their craft with a high level of excellence.

The word craft is more often used to describe the forming of something in a tactile nature, a hands-on experience that seems quite adverse to our thinking of wisdom as a purely cerebral practice.

**The Creation was conceived through God’s love. It is a living, changing masterpiece, in which He has concealed many mysteries for us to uncover, each evidencing more of His character.**

Through science and medicine, nature and astronomy, we see each facet containing astonishing ingenuity and intelligence.

**Proverbs 8:10-11** *Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*

## VITAL

**Proverbs 8:14-16** *I am understanding, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth.*

**Proverbs 8:35** *For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord.*

If we are to make a noticeable impact for change and influence people in places of authority, we cannot do it without pursuing the deeper wisdom of God and obtaining his favor

We can also see the disconnection of divine wisdom and creativity within our Christian communities.

Wisdom becomes boxed with reason, logic and factual crisp theological conclusions. We see creativity that only releases surface level depth compared to God's intended volcanic combination, or that simply repeats and copies someone else's fresh creativity without the depth of personal connection to the Creator.

When God's creativity and wisdom combine there are charged results: wisdom ignites new creative form, solution, invention and strategy

**CREATION** contains too great a volume of innovation and intelligence for us to wrap our heads around.

Then we must consider the Word of God: if divorced from supernatural considerations and read through the lenses of knowledge and man's wisdom alone, this supernatural book can result in the dry experience some attest to.

**Where people have the combination of wisdom and creativity, new excellence is evident.**

**Daniel 12:4** *But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.*



In this passage the angel is speaking to Daniel of the end days and the details of a long period of time. We live in an age where there is certainly a boundless increase in knowledge since Daniel's day. The capabilities of technology have amplified our ability to access and communicate knowledge across the globe with startling speed and diversity.

**KNOWLEDGE** is our ability to learn, assimilate and store information.

It is different from wisdom which, in turn, is different from the heavenly wisdom offered to us in the Bible.

**WISDOM** is described as the ability to govern and disciple by the use of reason, insight or shrewdness in the management of affairs; skill and good judgment in the use of resources; caution or circumspection as to danger or risk.

**Words relating to wisdom** are those such as foresight, intelligence, discrimination, comprehension, balance, savvy and prudence. Opposite words would be those such as ignorance or stupidity.<sup>6</sup>

**The Bible speaks of the manifold wisdom of God:**

**Job 11:6 (ASV)** *And that he would show thee the secrets of wisdom! For he is manifold in understanding.*

**Ephesians 3:10 (NIV)** *His intent was that now, through the church, **the manifold wisdom of God** should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.*

John Wesley's commentary explains that the phrase 'through the church' means what is done by the church, which is to be the theater of divine wisdom.<sup>7</sup>

The Message Bible describes it wonderfully:

**Ephesians 3:8-10** *And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!*

This described the revelation that the Gentiles could also share in the riches of what Christ achieved on the cross and it further expounds that God brings layers of His manifold wisdom to light; things that have been hidden can be excavated and expressed through His church.

## FULLNESS

Another aspect of this message that stirs us to consider its meaning is Colossians 1:19, which highlights that God has put all His fullness in Jesus:

**Colossians 1:19** *For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell*

In Ephesians 3:19 we see that we have Christ in us. Therefore we have this ‘fullness of God’ residing and breathing in each one of us.

Some of the multifarious sides of God  
are yet to be divulged

**Seek and we will find, but the key is to seek Him with all our heart (Deuteronomy 4:29).**

As we seek, new understanding of God opens up.

When we realize there is a gateway to the Almighty and His fullness living within us to explore, there are not enough days in this lifetime to come to the end of His boundaries. So let us dig until we finally understand more clearly who we really are in God, and thus what we are capable of.

## EXERCISE: RESTORING CREATIVITY

Write down what you hear God saying to you. If you need more time to do this exercise, continue it as homework.

**Let God show you any areas of creative gifting or potential that has been lost or diminished in your life from what God intended them to be.**

**Now ask God to show you if you have used the gifts/skills He has given you for reasons that were not in His will and to advance the Kingdom (such as to please people, gain power or money etc).**

If you have, take time to repent and ask God to forgive you.

**Now ask God if there are there any other issues that are keeping you from being fully released in His creativity and in your gifts/skills?**

- \* This could include wrong beliefs about God, others or yourself (such as low self-esteem); it could be character issues that affect your behavior negatively, etc.
- \* You may not have taken the time and effort to try and develop your skills/gifts, and you may have lacked stewardship.
- \* Have we settled for mediocrity and not pursued an excellence of character or call?

Take time to repent of anything God shows you to clear the way for healing and release.

**Now ask the Lord to heal you and restore lost creativity, skills and gifts to you, to bring new heavenly hope, vision and inspiration.**

Write down anything He shows you.

VITAL  
HOME WORK

**EXERCISE: THE FULL CUPBOARD**

**DO WE NEED TO MAKE SPACE FOR SOMETHING NEW?**

**Are there any areas of your life God wants to talk to you about to be able to make space for something new?**

**Are there things we need to lay down, habits we need to change, character issues we need to deal with that add to a full cupboard?** Spend time with God praying about this in more depth.

**How does God want us to respond and make space for new things to come?**

**EXERCISE: WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE FOR OIL?**

Spend time with God praying about this in more depth.

**Is there something God wants you to do to prepare to see more of His presence in and through your life and creativity (prayer and action)?**

**How will you respond?**

**Is there some way you can help/encourage others in your Christian community to prepare and make room for some new creativity and a greater depth of God?**

**How will you respond?**





# DNA - PART 1

If we are to make a noticeable impact for change and influence people in places of authority, we cannot do it without pursuing the deeper wisdom of God and obtaining His favor

**WE LOOKED AT FINDING A COMBINATION OF FACTORS, A REPEATING PATTERN USED AT SOME OF THE CRITICAL PLACES IN MAN'S HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS WITH GOD.**

## TABERNACLE

In Exodus we find keys to help unlock creativity in all God's people, but also a prototype for the artisans that God is calling out to be an essential part of His army for definitive purpose.

God speaks to Moses of a tabernacle

**Exodus 20:21** *So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.*

See Psalms 97:2



In that place the Lord gave Moses the ten commandments; shortly after, he was called again to the cloud:

**Exodus 24:15-18** *And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day He called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.*

He was given blueprints for the Tabernacle. Many creative forms were to be worked in the infrastructure as well as in the holy objects it would contain.

Each creative work was deeply allegorical, full of mystery, meaning, divine purpose and power that has caused studies and discussions for thousands of years.

## THE MERCY SEAT

One such example from many possibilities is the Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:17).

**Exodus 25:22** *And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.*

## GARMENTS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

As the head priest, Aaron was to have resplendent priestly garments made for him that were embellished with important emblems and allegorical meaning.

**Exodus 28:2-3** *And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.*

Skilfully woven garments of many colours were to be 'artistically worked' (Exodus 28:6). The breastplate contained precious stones in settings of gold, each representing a tribe of Israel.

## DNA

Like the temple these must have been spectacular works of divine creativity on completion, deemed holy garments.

Like the temple these must have been spectacular works of divine creativity on completion.

**The garments were made ‘for glory and for beauty’.**

Locked in some confused turns of church history is an over-glorification of beauty for beauty’s sake with ungodly roots. But there is also the evidence of where divine beauty and creativity connected with mankind with wondrous results.

## MOSES

**In the Biblical record of the Tabernacle, we see that a bare tent was not sufficient. Beauty, artistic excellence and divine enigma were the interior design of this dwelling place for the Most High.**

The divine creativity of God releases something, it carries something; the beauty and purity of Spirit-led art and innovation is powerful and we need to understand its purpose again

There seems some timely wisdom in another example from this passage. When the children of Israel just wanted to move on into the land of milk and honey, God asked them to pause and make this a place of precise, Spirit-filled beauty. It was a place they could focus on His character and where He could change them in the thick cloud of His presence.

**Exodus 40:33-35 & 38** *So Moses finished the work. Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.*

## THE CREATIVE PROTOTYPE

The primary downloads were given to Moses, but it was a team of artisans, commissioned by God, who made the series of extensive plans for this voluminous project. A lead artisan was commissioned and enabled in some rather surprising ways:

**Exodus 31:1-6** *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying 'See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you.'*

There are several remarkable things in this chapter.

**This is the very first record, in the Bible, of God filling someone with His Holy Spirit.**

**TWO PARALLEL INTRODUCTIONS WITH THE SAME COMBINATION OF FACTORS:**

The introduction of man to the Word of God as a book for us to learn from (Genesis 1:1).

The introduction to the concept of man being filled with the Spirit of God (Exodus 31:3).

**First** there is a blueprint or series of blueprints:

God's design for Creation and the designs He gave Moses for the tabernacle. In both places God's intention was to connect with man.

**Next**, the Holy Spirit was the dynamic through which the work was fulfilled.

**Next**, we find wisdom was present both at the making of Creation (Proverbs 8:22-31) and with Bezalel (Exodus 31:3)

**Finally**, all those factors were combined with creativity.

Both creativity and wisdom are parts of God's core nature, with wisdom even being described as a master craftsman (Proverbs 8:30). Bezalel was also a master craftsman, an artisan, working with an infilling of the Spirit of God.

## DNA

**The results of both were divine masterpieces, places where God was desirous to visit man and build relationship with him.**

In building the Tabernacle there is another element: God asked the artisans to bring their existing skill, then He multiplied it with divine intervention.

**Exodus 31:6** *The artisans had skill to carry out 'all manner of workmanship, to design artistic work'.*

They needed character and perseverance.

## THE CREATIVE COMBINATION

### **THE CREATION MADE BY GOD:**

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Skill/ability, joined with the character of God

### **THE TABERNACLE MADE BY GOD AND MAN IN PARTNERSHIP:**

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Skill/ability of man + More skill/ ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

Why would God introduce us to this combination of factors in two of the most significant primary connections between man and God? Why would He position them so strategically if they were not crucial, if their intention was not to reveal something of His nature that would be critical for His people to grasp?

### **There are two distinct types of people who can use this combination for great result:**

1. There is a creative DNA latent in all God's people, and when activated with the creative combination this energizes new divine solutions, plans, innovations, inventions, strategy or a level of the arts for any area of life or profession.
2. Then there is a calling for the artisans who carry a level of anointing, skill and gifting that equips them to aim for creative excellence in the arts to ignite this combination.

The combination could be used in the church arena or in world culture.

Any kind of creative skill that is not combined  
with the wisdom and Spirit of God  
is just dead works

## WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

Beyond Bezalel, Jesus sacrificed Himself that we would live a life in-filled with the Holy Spirit, thus giving us access to God's 'wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship' (Exodus 31:3).

We should be a people who spark anointed art and innovation, impacting the world around us with ground-breaking solutions in medicine and government, problem-solving business strategy, financial wisdom, amazing objectives that astound people who do not know God, moving far beyond some of our current limited understanding.

You have the Holy Spirit living in you; the divine  
creative DNA is installed within this connection

**A good question to ask is:** what skills do you already possess that the Holy Spirit can flame with the rest of 'the combination' and add to supernaturally?

## WAITING

If we are willing to seek God, connecting in deep communion, new wisdom and instruction will come. But waiting and seeking are not an apathetic passing of time, nor are they the expending of frustrated energy.

God is looking for people of an excellent spirit  
for Kingdom exploits

If we make time to listen, to pursue, to prepare our  
capabilities, gifts and character, then He can count  
us trustworthy and ready for commissioning

When we harmonize with heaven, we do not need to strive or compare ourselves to others. We can grow in God's timing as he leads us.

**God is willing to apportion skills and gifts we may not presently have.**

As we define our purpose and positioning, we may find we lack vital skills for the road up ahead. We can ask and receive skills by supernatural means.

Like Bezalel, we offer to God all that we have in our hands, then ask for acceleration, a multiplication, and in some cases new skills altogether. These may be for technology, organization, administration, leadership, people skills, artistic skills and so on.

## EXERCISE: LECTIO DIVINA WITH EXODUS 31:1-6

### ACTIVATING CREATIVITY

Lectio Divina is an ancient method of reading, meditation and prayer. It is Latin for 'divine reading'. It is allowing the 'Living Word' to connect with us more deeply, leading to connection with God Himself (Hebrews 4:12).



LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

It is an essential tool for unlocking creativity.

Jesus, who is the 'Living Word', can breathe new life upon our lives as we meditate on the scriptures.

Only His sacrifice can unlock our potential because it can only come through relationship with the Father.

**PART 1**

Read this scripture twice through slowly.

**Exodus 31:1-6** *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying 'See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you.'*

Now read this paraphrase of the scripture twice slowly, but put your own name in the appropriate spaces.

See, I have called by name (your name).....and I

have filled him/her with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner

of workmanship, to design/form.....

.....

.....

.....

I, indeed I, have appointed (your name) ..... and put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted believers, that they may make all that I command them.

Lastly fill in, in the appropriate space, anything God revealed to you that He would like to release through your creativity.

**QUESTIONS**

**Ask the Lord to show you what skills/gifts He wants to give you that you may not currently possess.**

## DNA

**What skills/gifts does He want to give you at a higher level than you currently operate in?**

**Ask God if there is anything in your life holding you up from fulfilling your potential?**

Take a moment to repent of partnering with anything you should not have, like negative words/thoughts/fears etc. Ask God to heal you and help you to overcome.

### **PART 2**

Now ask God to wake up your creative DNA and combine what you have already with the 'creative combination'.

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Skill/ability of man + More skill/ ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

Imagine you are in a meeting room with the Holy Spirit; you are meeting to brainstorm new ideas and vision. Ask God for new levels of skill, new skills/gifts you need for your Kingdom calling, and receive them in faith. Ask for heavenly blueprints and revelation.

**Is there fresh vision for the future that He wants to give you?**

**Ask God if there is something He wants you to do within this process to develop skill/gifting like training, research, practice, etc.** Or perhaps He wants you to position yourself in a different place to start operating in something new, for example.

Write it down and be open to whatever He shows you - we can block our destiny by trying to dictate what that looks like.

## THE TEMPLE

When Jesus came and sacrificed His life for us, we became the temple in which the Holy Spirit of God could live enduringly – not just to visit, but to live:

**1 Corinthians 6: 19** *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God?*

New discoveries are made in the fields of science and medicine that are simply the uncovering of more of His genius.

Turning our attention to the arts for a moment, we see there was extreme beauty and excellence in the tabernacle, and the gravity of this has been appreciated at stages of church history.

Art in the churches and cathedrals of old inspired holy awe and brought understanding of the divine, with biblical depictions for meditation.

The church blazed a trail of excellence in this highly influential arena of culture, in the arts, crafts and architecture, writing and other areas.

Since the Reformation, the church has seen minute progression in this field compared to the racing evolution of creativity in culture.

## RECLAIM

As we saw in section one, many art forms were rejected at some stages of the Reformation. As humanism contaminated the arts in religious circles, they were placed in the dock by reformers, judged suspicious with the risk of idolatry. The sentence of expulsion was embraced by many, with the exception of music. Is it not amazing that we still live in the agreement of this today, yet most Christians have no idea of this historical chapter?

**We live in a time of opportunity to use divine creativity to communicate God to people who do not know Him.**

Bob Jones said that *'Creativity would be the key to the great harvest'*.

When we grasp the initial point that the creativity of God is not confined to our current conception, we can also begin to grasp that the world stage is set to use this same resource as a megaphone for the dragons in media, the firepower of technology and the culture of the arts to declare the enemy's agenda.

## DNA

Can you then imagine what would be possible if God's people would connect to this creative DNA to the spark of holy wisdom to produce powerful, anointed messages and ideas that could impact not just handfuls of people, but nations?

As we begin to embrace our heritage, we can also inspire and train subsequent generations to tap the divine creative flow, so what may come through them can far extend what has been previously possible.

## JESUS

### **Why was Jesus a carpenter and not a shepherd?**

Jesus made a creative entrance into the world through prophecy.

Several dreams saved the life of the baby Jesus (Matthew 1:20; 2:12; 2:13; 27:19).

Jesus was thirty years old before the short time frame of His public ministry. How did He prepare?

**Jesus is often called 'The good shepherd' (John 10:11);**

Being a carpenter enabled Him to develop discipline in the workings of creative skill, and in some way this constant access to creativity was part of His vital preparation. It allowed Him to comprehend something, something He would have missed if this were not His training.

Our perception of Jesus as an 'odd jobs man' is inaccurate; He had something to teach us in His time on earth about the creative DNA being an integral part of who God is.

**He demonstrated for us 'the combination' again:**

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Existing skill/ability + More skill/ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

**THE CREATIVE COMBINATION AT PIVOTAL TIMES IN THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN**

- 1. THE WORD OF GOD:** The introduction of The Creator making The Creation where man would live.
- 2. THE TABERNACLE:** Bezalel, the introduction of what happens when man is filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 3. JESUS:** The bridge to reconnect God and man after the fall in Eden – an access point for the Holy Spirit to remain in man.

‘The combination’ was present at each of these firsts. The creativity in each example is not some vague arty gifting. It is a mix of creativity with divine wisdom, with skill and craftsmanship that can take inspired thought and channel it into practical design skills and blueprints, then administrate the project to produce an end result.

It is the connecting and working together of the left- and right-side attributes of the brain.

**When Jesus moved into public ministry, He continued to model for us a highly creative life that lived ‘the combination’.**

He taught in parables instead of plain, seemingly logical speech. He chose to speak in symbolic language and stories that were full of riddle and enigma. Why not just speak in straightforward terms?

**MIRACLES**

The recorded methods of miracles of Jesus carried no set formulas, and could even be viewed as random if we do not see the creativity of the Holy Spirit at work - a unique response for each unique situation

**We have struggled to organize His activities into neat logical patterns for centuries.**

## DNA

If we take into account the creativity of God's core nature, then that's exactly what was modeled for us so that we can do the 'greater things' Jesus spoke of (John 14:12).

He modeled a life that listened to and obeyed the divine creative flow that brought individual instruction for each situation.

We have programs that teach us a set of rules and guidelines on 'how to do what Jesus did'. What we need is to embrace the ingenuity of God and develop a strength of communication with Him.

**There are other characters all through the Bible who model 'the combination' for us.**

## DAVID

King David was one of God's favorite people; a prodigious King, a man after God's own heart and a highly creative individual.

David embodied 'the combination' again. He was known as a victorious King of wisdom and great military strategy in war, but he was also famed in the Bible for his creative worship and intercession. He poured out his heart in the inspired language of the psalms, translating many into music – a harpist who evoked the presence of God. They contain prophecies of the Messiah's coming and are much quoted by Jesus Himself.

David had the wisdom to see the essential link with creativity and the artistic gifts when inviting and hosting the presence of God, and His heart ran towards excellence in these areas.

He desired to build a great temple for the Lord, a house for the Ark of God, but permission was only granted for his son Solomon to carry out the work, because David had participated in too much war and bloodshed.

In the interim, David built a tabernacle, a tent that would house the Ark on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. It was the center of a new order of joyful worship; the sacrifices offered at David's tent were those of praise, joy and thanksgiving (Psalm 95:2; 100:4; 141:2).

**Psalm 95:2 NIV** *Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.*



Many believe the sacrifices of the new Church are to be of praise, joy and thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9); also that the tabernacle of David points to the proclamation of Christ through His church and the foreshadowing of the priestly, kingly and prophetic ministries of the church (Revelation 1:6).

## SOLOMON

Early in his reign Solomon had a dream...

**1 Kings 3:5** *At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask! What shall I give you?'*

**1 Kings 3:7-15** *Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours? The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him: 'Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honour, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.'* Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream.

Solomon began his reign well, recognizing full dependence on God to lead this mighty people, and so God gave him the most extraordinary wisdom (1 Kings 3:28)

His Kingdom was also remarkable and he became successful, distinguished for exceptional judgment and for building a nation of trade and influence. Many came from different lands across the earth just to hear his wisdom (1 Kings 10:23–24).

**As a result he acquired outstanding wealth in vast tributes from kings and queens through the development of trade with other nations.**

**1 Kings 4:29** *And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.*

## A ROYAL VISIT

The Queen of Sheba came to experience the great wisdom she had heard of and to see this Kingdom for herself, only to find its reality exceeded all her expectations:

**1 Kings 10:4-5** *And when the Queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. Then she said to the king: 'It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom'.*

## Solomon's temple

Solomon built the temple that had been in his father David's heart. Its magnificence was astonishing. The design and details of the temple are found in 1 Kings 6, with much of the interior being overlaid with pure gold, filling it with the movement of reflected ethereal light (1 Kings 6:22).

## The artisans

**1 Kings 7:13-14** *Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.*

Again the head artisan commissioned for the job showed exceptional skill, also operating in divine wisdom. With his team he created wondrous works in bronze, vast pillars with beautiful artistic details.

When all the highly detailed architecture, art and interiors were finished, it was time to open the doors and dedicate the temple. Fire from heaven devoured the sacrifices, and the weighty glory of God's holy presence

was so intense the priests could no longer stand and continue their duties, and the people were face down with holy awe (2 Chronicles 7:1-3).

**1 Kings 8:10-11** *And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.*

We would often consider the highly prized wisdom of Solomon as mainly centering on logic and intellect; we would probably consider wise people to have their minds on higher things than art and beauty, but Solomon was just as interested in those as he was in strategic and governmental affairs.

That should reveal to us yet again that something is missing in our thinking: the deep relationship between the wisdom of God and creativity.

## HOUSES OF THE ARK

The Ark of God represented the immediate presence and glory of God with His people, in Israel.

**Where the Ark of the Covenant was housed in the tabernacle of Moses, the tabernacle of David and the temple of Solomon, there was amazing creative variety** – the finest arts with multitudes of the most extraordinary details of figures, flowers and fruits. The finest gold was found, gemstones and lavish beautifully woven fabrics. There was noisy heartfelt worship poured out in praise and adoration to our magnificent God. There was creative writing, song and instruments, dance and ceremony, symbolism and beauty and more beauty; all produced through the Spirit and wisdom of God by hearts and hands submitted and obedient to what He was showing them, the joy of being utterly creative for a purpose.

In these environments His presence was poured out until the people could not stand, consumed by the depth of His majestic presence.

**God's people are awakening with a new appetite to see His presence, and so we must look at keys from the Word to see His nature and the environments and hearts that ushered it in.**

## WE ARE THE TEMPLE

The temple has not gone; it did not disappear with the Old Testament, along with the creativity.

We are the temple that houses the presence  
and splendor of God in His Spirit

The tabernacles patterned the temple of the Holy Spirit and then we became it!

The creative DNA of God's people must be stirred again. His artisans need to be filled with wisdom, to see their purpose.

## POURING OUT NEW WINE

God said of the last days:

**Acts 2:17** *I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*

This relates to:

**Ephesians 5:17-19** *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*

In the same place the Lord tells us to be intoxicated  
with the Spirit that He is pouring out, He tells us  
to have wisdom, and divulges that the result  
of being full of the Holy Spirit is that you get creative!

Psalms are creative writing; many hymns are like poetry – we are to sing with spiritual songs (meaning ‘songs with divine wisdom’ in Strong’s Concordance).<sup>1</sup>

**So as we begin to seek these things, what will we expect?**

**We must be prepared for the unforeseen that may even seek to shake the debilitating excessive reason and logic out from amongst us, confounding our brain so our spirit can triumph.** The point is that something new, fresh and innovative will come, and it may look exactly like that – new!

## WALLS

When Joshua and the children of Israel were facing a problem, God activated ‘the combination’ to do something which seemed illogical. Joshua 6 tells the story of a rising challenge as they were claiming the promised inheritance.

Jericho was an imposing walled city that they were to claim for their own, but they needed the tactics of great military force; that is certainly how we would have approached it today: the more logical strategy the better.

However, the plan that God gave Joshua, the blueprint that would deliver the city into their hands, was surprisingly not to storm the city with the vast number of fighting men among them. Instead, priests were to carry the Ark of God around the walls, blowing rams’ horns and trumpets, with the fighting men of Israel following behind. On the seventh day they were to do this seven times; the wall collapsed and it was theirs for the taking.

**God gave them a plan they could never have come up with themselves!**

**As we look at the indomitable walls around the cities of world culture with little idea how to break in, the creative DNA of God is a powerful weapon that will not yield to our logic and control; it will require ears to hear and hearts to obey the seemingly radical answers that will come.**

## FOUR HORNS AND FOUR CRAFTSMEN

**Zechariah 1:18-21** *Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns. And I said to the angel who talked with me, ‘What are these?’ So he answered me, ‘These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.’ Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen. And I said, ‘What are these coming to do?’ So he said, ‘These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.’*

Zechariah the prophet had a series of visions during the reign of Darius, who ruled in the same time-frame as Daniel was alive. In this vision the horns represented demonic strongholds that have oppressed the nations, crushing them until people are left depressed and hopeless and can no longer lift up their heads.

**Who does God send to save them? Craftsmen.**

Many nations are certainly crestfallen and lacking hope in these times. The craftsmen were able to ‘terrify’ these strongholds that no one else was able to destroy.

Divine creativity, in its true form, links with the other factors in ‘the combination’, becoming a limitless weapon against oppression

Divine creativity sparks answer because the Creator is limitless, and there is no problem too large or multifarious

After the work of the craftsmen, the people are able to start the work of restoration, to rebuild cities (Zachariah 2:1).

**END GAME**

The second-last chapter of the Bible describes where we are going: we return full circle. In the Garden of Eden man began his journey with God in amongst the most potent beauty of unspoiled nature in all its glory. We end the story to begin a new chapter of eternity in the City of God (Revelation 21:14–21).





## DNA - PART 2

### OBEDIENCE

Obedience will be the key to a continuing stream  
of innovative downloads for believers

If we seek for wisdom and new strategy but refuse to  
carry it out when we are granted answer, it will not  
encourage God to give us more

The Bible shows us we are a trusted friend of God when we obey, and divine communications will carry increasing clarity.

### CROSSING OVER

As the journey progresses, we may be asked to do things we did not expect! Obedience will be the motivator to proceed.



**We give up our own agenda to work with the Spirit in collaboration. When we do, we will find peace in our creativity.**

What we 'impart' into our creativity will directly affect the influence it will carry.

**Freedom is needed to explore, to try new divinely inspired ideas – to risk the unfamiliar and, at times, the totally unexpected as we seek God in partnership.**

Let's encourage others on this journey of exploration and help to restore the value of creativity in others.

## PERFORMANCE TO PRESENCE

We will be given more if we have the right objectives

We are not given divine gifting and wisdom to give us a personal stage or an impressive career path. They are to release prophetic message in faith so someone else can be touched and draw more deeply into God's presence; so someone else can get free and become impassioned. That's the kind of creativity He wants for each one of us. The countless rewards for us are just part of the deal when they are not our main objective.

Our self-worth can become completely wrapped up in our gift, and many live their life constantly striving for empty success or with the dark cloud of failure and rejection hanging overhead.

**We need to seek the favor of God and not man. His favor opens completely different doors to us and is ultimately more fulfilling.**

To truly change direction and begin to release creativity and art that has the power of God on it and that can change atmospheres, we must aim to move in the completely opposite spirit from the world: to be completely free from misguided competition, not to aim to be seen as better than someone else but to work in unity, lifting one another up.

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**If we channel our energy into selfish ambition, we will be slaves to the values of the world, and we will be rewarded by its values.**

Kingdom always seeks to bring others healing, grace, the embrace of the Spirit and the liberation of their own creative DNA.

An excellent spirit does not seek a personal stage, strive for riches or strive to be known. It offers freely back to God all He has given, and that's when He can use us in ways that are beyond our summation of ourselves or our gifts.

The quest is for presence, not performance.

## WELLS AND SOURCES

**What wells and sources are we drawing from?**

**Jeremiah 2:13** *“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water.*

**John 4:14** *Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’*

Inspiration must come from somewhere to propel action

Every kind of creative skill is trained to draw from wells, be it in business or media, fashion or science.

**There is the well of the soul** producing a commentary on emotions, perceptions, ideals, life's experiences and so on, but its parameters are found in the soul of its creator. So, even if the outcome is technically of a high standard, its result is limited, sometimes shallow and often repetitive in theme.

**There is also the dark well of the enemy** inspiring creativity through which his characteristics are disseminated.

If we are trying to grasp the fact that the Holy Spirit can rest upon and radiate light through an art form or type of creative work, then we must also see that a wrong spirit can rest upon creativity that is darkly inspired. What would happen if God's people reclaimed their DNA for this area and started to produce all sorts of solutions, ideas, artistic works and breakthroughs that carried the Spirit of God upon them – works that can alter atmospheres and solve huge problems?

## CLEAN THE PIPES

Repentance is the most amazing scrubbing brush we will ever be given; it purifies what we have, then God restores a much greater volume because our vessels can now contain increased heavenly glory (Acts 3:19).

**We become trustworthy to minister more revelation.**

First we must lay down all that we have  
and ask to be cleaned

## EXERCISE: WELLS AND SOURCES

**Have we drawn from the wrong wells and sources?**

**Have we drawn from the well of the soul, the world or the enemy to fuel the gifts that He gave us?**

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**Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you have done this, then bring these details before Him in repentance.**

**Now ask the Lord to heal you from the effects of drawing from the wrong sources. Ask God to open your eyes to see the sources He wants you to draw from – those that will release Kingdom through your creativity and life.**

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

**Gifts could be described as a special ability, something freely given. We have all been given spiritual gifts from God to live a life full of meaning and Kingdom objective.**

As well as spiritual gifts, we will have abilities and skills, things we seem to have aptitude for. We normally develop these so they become part of the line of work we follow or things we like to do in our spare time.

How much do we distinguish and progress the spiritual gifts God has given us (listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8–11)?

So often the principles in the natural world mirror  
the spiritual world to help us understand  
the methods at work

Spiritual gifts are also bestowed on us rather than earned but, just like other gifts, they are embryonic and need maturation.

## THE CHURCH BOX

Sometimes the use of many of our spiritual gifts (listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11) are kept for church settings alone and remain locked in this reservoir, but they are potently effective in the world.

**Ephesians 4:11-14** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*

The main purpose of the five-fold ministry roles is actually to make the body effectual. It is not just to personally accomplish Kingdom work but to multiply ourselves, as it were, mobilizing the gifts in others.

Growing maturity should lead us to prepare  
a spiritual environment that eases the way  
for others to fulfil Kingdom ventures

We can define what each role looks like and regularly assign them to church meetings.

As we broaden our perception of where the spiritual gifts can be used, we could consider such examples as an apostle to the business world or the mountain of the arts, an office pastor or a prophet to the mountain of media, and begin to increasingly understand these roles to support the people within them.

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 also lists the spiritual gifts given to empower the body of Christ. It lists words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healing, miracle-working, discerning of spirits, tongues, and tongues with interpretation. Romans 12 also lists the gifts of administration, encouraging, giving, serving, showing mercy and prophecy.

**1 Corinthians 14:1** tells us to **eagerly desire the spiritual gifts, especially prophecy.**

We can mainly assume prophecy is spoken with words, with perhaps the odd 'prophetic act', but with this mind set we limit God.

But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men (1 Corinthians 14:3).

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What does 'spoken' look like?

How does God speak to us?

Prophecy declares, changes the atmosphere and releases something in the heavenlies.

**The gifting of God needs the connection of Spirit to bring forth life.**

Equally, people can take their God-bestowed gifts and tap the soul or darkness with detrimental effect.

What happens when we connect these spiritual gifts with the skills and abilities developing in our lives, such as business acumen, a medical career, engineering, working with children?

Our spiritual gifts should interface with and empower our natural abilities, so they can also become vehicles for the spiritual gifts

## SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE

Kris Vallotton of Bethel Church brings us some insight on our consisting of body, soul and spirit and discusses spiritual intelligence.<sup>1</sup>

**IQ:** Previously, only intelligence quotient or IQ was recognized, which has to do with the competence of body, or more specifically brain, to process information.

**EQ:** In more recent years it has also been recognized that people have an emotional intelligence or EQ. This is a competency to identify, assess and control the emotions of oneself and of others, or the processing of information through the soul.

**Kris Vallotton defines a third category called spiritual intelligence**, which describes the ability of our spirit to process information; it is the capability to discern and understand things in the spiritual dimension of our world and not just the natural dimension of the five senses. Some spiritual gifts fall into the category of spiritual intelligence

**The gift of discernment** allows us to identify spiritual entities that influence people, groups and geographical areas; it helps determine where people are in their levels of spiritual maturation.

**The gift of knowledge** qualifies us to fathom things about our natural world through communication with the realm of the Spirit.

**The gift of wisdom** gives us the competency to rightly apply knowledge in a way that builds for the future.

**The gift of prophecy** is the capacity for foresight, to see the future before it happens and the ability to understand a person, organization or geographic location's divine purpose.

As we process life through the 'mind of Christ' that we have been given (1 Corinthians 2:16), we have the ability to process all aspects of life from an eternal and multidimensional perspective through the supernatural connection to the Spirit. Life becomes poured through a filter that does not limit, but sees Heaven's resources and infinite probabilities that transcend the laws of physics and the restrictions of physical realities.

As we combine our potential spiritual intelligence with new heavenly wisdom, there will be profound results.

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16** *However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual*

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*judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ.*

Paul showed us in this passage that we have access to wisdom that transcends the wisdom of the world.

God has given us the 'mind of Christ' at  
great expense to Himself

**It is claimed by scientists that people only use a fraction of the brain potential they actually have.** The same could be said of our spiritual potential; with all these gifts, the mind of Christ and the provision of the Holy Spirit to teach and train us, how much of our spiritual capacity do we actually use?

How much more could we activate?

Jesus said we would do greater things than He did on the earth (John 14:12).

## CLOSE

After salvation, the master key is close relationship with God, one of intimacy and integrity, fatherhood and friendship. Jesus said to his disciples:

**John 15:13-15** *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

We can enter INTO all the wisdom and ingenuity we  
need but the key to Heaven's warehouse is  
a relationship with God



As we live in increasing obedience and intimacy, we transform from servants to friends and a closer collaboration is formed.

So many of us know these verses:

**John 10:14, 27** (Amplified Version) *I am the Good Shepherd; and I know and recognize My own, and My own know and recognize Me - the sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.*

**Revelation 3:20** (Amplified Version) *Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears and listens to and heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he will eat with Me.*

What do they mean to us?

**There is nothing God cannot communicate through, if He chooses, but the pivotal question is: do we hear Him?**

We can make trying to develop a relationship with God and hear His voice so complex. We are repeatedly-modeled heavenly paradigms through the natural world, such as friendship.

Unlike us, He spans time and space, the present and infinitude, the definable and the indefinable, a never-ending source of creative intrigue, and He has all the time in the world for you.

Increasing, affectionate communion releases the peace that passes understanding on days when there should be none.

An impassioned relationship with God is the greatest key to revelation and perspective for God's Word, as well as divine communications for us and through us to others. It is an access point to walking in Godly authority, healing and the supernatural power of God

**Luke 11: 9-11** *So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*

God is always pursuing us. We must also pursue Him.

We want the powerful and profound things of God but we must be careful not expect them on our terms or within our programmed schedules and life plan.

We must ask and learn to listen, developing a two-way exchange, respond and begin the cycle again. When we hear answers, we must respond and cherish the communication so that God would want to share the increasingly weighty and fascinating secrets of His heart with us.

Often He must test our hearts to see if they are willing for the process of purity, for His revelation and presence are of immeasurable value.

He speaks in His grace, but there comes a point when  
He desires us to grow up, to appraise the true price  
of knowing the kaleidoscope of His conversation  
and sweet taste of friendship

**Moses loved to be in the presence of God.**

**Exodus 33:11** *The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.*

His face was so luminous with glory after time in the presence of God that the people were alarmed (Exodus 34:29). This was the very embodiment of relationship; they talked together regularly as friends. Moses listened to God and learned that the thick glorious presence of the Lord is the most unprecedented place to be.

**Exodus 20:18-19,21** *When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, 'Speak to us yourself and we will listen'....The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.*

**God's people need to be the very ones to draw near 'the thick darkness where God is' and find Him.**

We live in a time of immense opportunity, revival and reformation; in the Kingdom cloud we will find all we need to be transformers. People are drawn to the majestic presence of God way before they even know what it is, so if we intentionally fill with, then distribute the glory into an environment, we can trigger spiritual change and response in the most evident ways.

## BUILDING YOUR HOUSE ON THE ROCK

**Luke 6:48** *He is like a man who built a house, and dug deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.*

There is much quaking of world systems to come, and the building tsunami wave of the Spirit that is on its way will strike with force.

It will be a magnificent time for the people of God to be about their Father's business.

If your life is fixed to 'the Rock' – a solid house of relationship and certainty in God – while others are swamped in the sinking sand, you can extend the life-giving hand of shelter and wisdom. You can offer real solution and hope.

As we progress in the ability to hear from God, we find  
He so often speaks in riddles and symbols

Remember the answers lie in His inner courts, in the  
addictive pursuit of unfolding mysteries and messages

To find real life-changing solutions we must drench and float for a while. In that place we build on rock and receive the fortitude we need to live the principles of the Christian life. Without this, we seek man's approval, the ideas of others, answers from friends, affirmation from people, direction from the newspapers. Life can seem dry and rocky, tossed to and fro in the current climate.

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The presence of God illuminates all the riches He has given us, like going to a vast store; it is all there, everything you need. We can be guided through the shelves so we resource exactly what is required for each changing day.

It is time to explode the lid of limitation and ask God to divulge new and creative ways to use the skills we have in our hands already, so that He can multiply, like the widow's oil (2 Kings 4:1-7).





# PROTOTYPES

Woven through the compelling stories of the Bible are entrance points to wisdom and mystical understanding that help us navigate the passage of life with all its twists and turns. Within the stories of Daniel and Joseph lie many parallels with our current age, and their lives model prototypes that carry critical enlightenment for present reality. They illumine facets of the character of God.

The following information demonstrates that there are many strong similarities in their lives.

**Both stories illustrate for us the cultivation of kingdom character that releases spiritual gifting on a formidable level.**

Daniel and Joseph both rose from obscurity, from the lowest positions within these foreign cultures to governmental posts that were second only to the most powerful Kings on the earth in their times

We often look at all the problems in the world and the prime influences atop political and governmental chains, wondering when and how Christians will make a serious difference; but God has given us the tools in our hands to rise – we just need to understand what these tools are and allow ourselves to be formed for their use.

Let's look at the parallel features in both stories and examine the elements and characteristics that combined in both men to be used so eminently for God's purposes.

## HISTORICAL SETTING

**DANIEL:** Old Testament. The story is set in the courts of the Babylonian Empire during the life of Nebuchadnezzar II (634-562BC) who ruled the Neo-Babylonian Empire from 605 to 562BC.<sup>1</sup>

**JOSEPH:** Old Testament. The story runs through the beginning of Joseph's life with his family in Canaan to his slavery in Egypt and his involvement in the courts of the Pharaoh of Egypt. The most likely period for Joseph is the period of the Hyksos Pharaohs c.1570-720BC.

## FAMILY BACKGROUND & EDUCATION

**DANIEL:** He lived in Jerusalem, came from a noble family, and was well educated (Daniel 1:3). After an eighteen-month siege, Jerusalem was captured in 587BC, and by 572BC Nebuchadnezzar was in full control of Babylonia, Assyria, Phoenicia, Israel, Philistia, Northern Arabia and parts of Asia Minor.

**JOSEPH:** He lived in Canaan; one of Jacob's twelve sons and Rachel's firstborn. Schooled by his father to help manage the family estate, and given a coat of many colours as his Father's favorite son. He had two dreams about his future (Genesis 30:22-23; 37:1-10).

## CAPTIVITY IN A FOREIGN LAND

**DANIEL:** He was taken away from his own family into captivity when Jerusalem was ransacked and Solomon's temple was razed to the ground. Thousands of Jews were taken into exile in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar around 587BC (Daniel 1:1-3).

**JOSEPH:** He was taken away from his own family and sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, then taken to Egypt (Genesis 37:19-36).

## THE CAPTOR CULTURE

**DANIEL: BABYLON:** It was the largest city in the Neo-Babylonian Empire and the main seat of power for the known world from 608 to 539BC, making it the most powerful nation on earth in Daniel's time. It was seen as the hotbed of vice, and its remains lie in Iraq.

**JOSEPH: EGYPT:** It was one of the most powerful nations on earth and dominated many other cultures. The River Nile was its main source of life for fish and growing crops. The Pharaohs ruled Egypt in succession, believed to be embodiments of the hawk-headed God Horus, the ruler of sky and heaven. There were twenty-nine dynasties over three millennia.

## THE CREATIVE CULTURE

**DANIEL:** Babylon was a highly creative culture in this time frame, known for its wealth, architecture and gods, with many elaborate temples and artworks made in their honor. Temples dominated urban social structure – a person's social status and political rights were determined by where they stood in the religious hierarchy.

**JOSEPH:** Ancient Egyptian art attained a high level in painting and sculpture. It was notably symbolic, with a complex combination of realistic forms with stylized design. There was much emphasis on deity and life after death. Ancient Egyptian architecture was so astounding and skilled that it has become among the most famous in the history of civilization.

## LIVING IN AN UNGODLY CULTURE

**DANIEL:** Babylon means 'Gateway of Gods'. Daniel was surrounded by a culture where the worship of multiple gods and idols was an integral part of daily life. He had to take a risky and firm stand to continue to worship God and adhere to Hebrew customs (Daniel 1:5-16; 2).

**JOSEPH:** Joseph was also immersed in a culture where the worship of Egyptian gods dominated. The pyramids were spectacular burial sites for the Pharaohs because they believed their Kings were gods incarnate. Egyptians regarded life to be controlled by a force called Mahat. Joseph also had to take an exceptional stance to continue in his devotion to God (Genesis 39:2; 39:6-11).



## TRAINING

**DANIEL:** He was trained in the language, literature and culture of Babylon for service in the royal palace (Daniel 1:4). He had to obey his leaders and teachers and had little freedom as a captive.

**JOSEPH:** He was trained on the job in the service of Potiphar, Pharaoh's captain of the guard, who put him in charge of his entire household to administrate and manage his estate and staff (Genesis 39:4). He had to obey his master and had little freedom as a slave. He would also have had to learn about and abide by Egyptian culture and customs

## WISDOM

**DANIEL:** Daniel possessed extraordinary wisdom, even at a young age. 'God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams' (Daniel 1:17, also see 1:14; 1:20; 2:14; 2:23).

**JOSEPH:** He must have shown exceptional administrative skills and wisdom to be placed in charge of the estate and staff of one of Pharaoh's high ranking employees (Genesis 39:2–6). He demonstrated great wisdom when he ran from Potiphar's wife (Genesis 38:6–11).

## CHARACTER

**DANIEL:** Daniel's Godly character developed while he was captive in a foreign and oppressive culture that did not honor God. He had to learn to walk in a deeper level of faith and trust, emptied of all pride. There was no avenue for self-promotion or even choice in the early part of his training, but instead he had to learn submission to leadership, faithfulness and intimacy with God no matter the environment.

This level of character enabled him to be entrusted with revelation and wisdom to influence the greatest nation on earth in his day, at the highest level. He had to resist the temptation of pride and the indulgences of the culture available to him when elevated in status. He risked death to interpret the writing on the wall (Daniel 5) and in the story of the lion's den (Daniel 6), to show his obedience to God.

**JOSEPH:** Joseph was also trained into a high character. He endured the heartbreaking and brutal rejection of his brothers and was taken away from the land of the Hebrews. He stayed obedient to God and his masters even through the injustice of slavery, false accusation and imprisonment (Genesis 40:15). After he interpreted the dream of the chief-cupbearer, confirming that man's restoration to Pharaoh's court, the cupbearer forgot

## PROTOTYPES

to bring his case to Pharaoh, and Joseph spent two more years in prison, denied comfort and freedom in some grim conditions (Genesis 40:23; 41:1). He had to learn to be faithful with the gifts God gave him and, like Daniel, he had to retain his high character and relationship with God once promoted to Vizier and given more freedom and resources.

## PROMOTED & DEMOTED

**DANIEL:** He was promoted as the son of a noble family in Jerusalem (Daniel 1:3), then demoted into exile and taken away from his family by the Babylonian captivity (Daniel 1:1). After promotion to the King's service (Daniel 1:19), he was further promoted to ruler over the entire province of Babylon and the wise men of the King's court when he interpreted the King's dreams (Daniel 2:48). He was demoted with exclusion from the wise men during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar's son Belshazzar (Daniel 5:8, 10-12), but then promoted to the third highest ruler in the Kingdom when he interpreted the writing on the wall (Daniel 5:29). He was later promoted by King Darius to one of the three administrators, over the one hundred and twenty ruling satraps, who governed the Kingdom (Daniel 6:1-2); but then he was demoted and falsely accused by his fellow administrators and satraps and thrown into the lion's den. Lastly, he was promoted back into position, and his accusers were removed from power (Daniel 6).

**JOSEPH:** He was promoted by his father and gifted a coloured coat that distinguished him from amongst his brothers (Genesis 37:3). However, he was then demoted by the brothers to slavery and exile from his family (Genesis 37:28). Promotion came in the role of master and administrator of Potiphar's household (Genesis 39:4); then demotion followed through the false accusation of Potiphar's wife and the punishment of prison (Genesis 39:20). He was promoted again and placed in charge of the prison (Genesis 39:22-23). He was then promoted to Vizier (the highest official in Ancient Egypt) by Pharaoh after interpreting his dreams (Genesis 41:40-41).

## DESPISED & REJECTED

**DANIEL:** He would have been looked down on by the indigenous people of Babylon as a foreign captive. He was despised and rejected by the other administrators and satraps he worked with, who tried to have him killed (Daniel 6).

**JOSEPH:** He was despised and rejected by his brothers and sold into slavery because of his father's favoritism and the implications of his dreams that his family would bow down to him (Genesis 37:1-11). He would have been constantly despised by the Egyptians as a slave and treated accordingly. He was betrayed by Potiphar's wife because he would not do what she wanted (Genesis 39:6-17), and then by Potiphar who believed her accusation and threw him into prison (Genesis 39:20).

## DREAMS INTERPRETED

**DANIEL:** Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great statue, revealing the reign of four empires yet to come in the future (Daniel 2:27-45). He also interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of a tree (Daniel 4:19-27). Daniel himself had a series of dreams and visions regarding the future (Daniel chapters 7-12).

**JOSEPH:** Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh’s baker and cupbearer (Genesis 40) and was remembered by the cupbearer two years later and recommended to Pharaoh (Genesis 41:9-13). He interpreted Pharaoh’s dream about the years of famine and offered a remedy (Genesis 41:25-32).

## A SUDDEN RISE TO THE TOP

**DANIEL:** Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great statue (Daniel 2:27-45) and was made ruler over the whole province of Babylon, rising to become the second most powerful man in the Neo-Babylonian empire next to King Nebuchadnezzar.

**JOSEPH:** Joseph interpreted Pharaoh’s dream about the coming years of plenty and years of famine, and was made Vizier (highest official in Ancient Egypt), rising to become the second most powerful man in Egypt next to Pharaoh. He was renamed Zaphnath-Paaneah meaning ‘the man to whom mysteries are revealed’ (Genesis 41:39-40).

## KINGS RECOGNIZE THE POWER OF GOD

**DANIEL:** After Daniel interpreted the dream of the great statue, King Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed that no one could speak against God throughout the whole Babylonian Empire (Daniel 3:30). After further humbling he declared that God was the highest God to ‘all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth’ (Daniel 4). Daniel worked with and greatly influenced the Persian King Darius. After Daniel was rescued from the lion’s den, Darius also wrote to all the nations saying that in every part of his extensive kingdom people must fear and reverence God and extol His virtues (Daniel 6:25-28).

**JOSEPH:** After Joseph interpreted Pharaoh’s dreams about years of plenty followed by years of famine, Pharaoh declared the Spirit of God to be superior; he appointed a Hebrew slave to become the second most powerful man in Egypt, with his primary qualification being that he had the Spirit of God strongly present in his life (Genesis 41:39–40).

## INFLUENCE ON CULTURE

**DANIEL:** He would have been able to bring vast influence in the high governmental positions, with the latitude to demonstrate Kingdom values and culture. He held fast to his devotion to God, which in itself was a powerful demonstration in a culture rife with idols.

**JOSEPH:** Joseph would also have been able to model Kingdom principles through his life and through the way he handled the extensive task of gathering the abundance in the years of plenty, then stewarding it in the years of famine so that many people lived. He gave the glory to God for this world-saving solution. <sup>1-3</sup>

From the comparable journeys and elements of their lives, it is important to look at the factors present to learn what enabled them to be such powerhouses of Kingdom effect. Both Daniel and Joseph lived in cultures similar to the world that surrounds us today, a world that barely recognizes God in many nations, a world desperately needing solutions and breakthroughs yet unable to save itself no matter how hard it tries.

God's people have been given the DNA and a composite of factors that can lead us, like Daniel and Joseph, to have some of the very answers the world needs right now, so that many people can come to know a saving God

## WISDOM

**The Word tells us that Daniel had unprecedented wisdom, a wisdom that was beyond his years, even from when he was quite young.**

Daniel accessed the divine, creative intelligence

If it were only about wisdom as we currently see it, why are there still so many problems in the world, when there are lots of well-educated people around trying to solve them?

**Daniel 1:14** *Young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. (See also Daniel 2:14; 5:10–11; 5:14.)*

Daniel and friends were being trained for the King's service, and when it was time to present them to the King:

**Daniel 1:19** (New American Standard) *The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.*

Both Joseph and Daniel were noted for the unique acumen they displayed, and thus both were promoted to highly influential posts. Let us now take a look at some of the skills they possessed and how these equipped them for the call of God.

## SKILLS

Both Joseph and Daniel demonstrated perseverance and spent perspiration developing a level of excellence in certain skills. Blending these skills with heavenly wisdom caused a striking distinction, noted by their leadership

Nebuchadnezzar found no equal to Daniel, and Potiphar was so impressed with Joseph, a mere slave in his household, that he set him in charge of everything he owned.

**If we are faithful to develop what God has given us, we will be given more.** (Mathew 25:14–28)

**Luke 16:10** *He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.*

## PROTOTYPES

### CREATIVE

**The wisdom of God is a 'Master craftsman'** (Proverbs 8:29b-30), so if both Joseph and Daniel possessed this wisdom, then they could utilize the creative DNA of God. They did not merely display IQ but emphatic evidence that they were operating in the otherworldly ingenuity of the Spirit.

**The level at which they interpreted dreams requires a fine capacity to understand heavenly metaphorical language. They exhibited capability to bring solutions on a national scale.**

### THE COAT OF MANY COLOURS

It is interesting that God has used colour as an essential part of Creation itself.

**Can you imagine a world without colour? Colour contributes a beauty and depth that black and white completely lack in comparison.**

The Bible clearly uses colour to symbolize things, such as gold for the glory of God (as in the tabernacle of Moses and temple of Solomon).

Colours are so important to God (Revelation 4:3; 21:19).

Joseph was given a coat of many colours. This could speak of the aptitude God gives us for a variety of different abilities, but it also expresses God's artistry.

When we look at Creation, its colour and order display a supreme beauty, far beyond that of man's making – it amplifies the glory of God. The colourful Creation voices its Creator, but it also broadcasts the character of a God of variation, beauty and ultimate creativity.

If Joseph is a prototype for us today, then a multicoloured mantle indicates that these things are also to become entwined with our assorted gifts.

## LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

It is powerful to form something that did not previously exist, like a structure or an idea. Joseph proposed new solutions that saved the world from starvation in his time.

**This creative DNA spanned across and defined his calling – it was his destiny to use this DNA to access the strength of heaven.**

Wisdom + Creativity + Spirit + Skills = divine solutions and strategies.

**These elements were seen in his administration, his leadership, his ability to interpret the dreams of the king and his governance.**

The tabernacles of Moses and Solomon taught us what these elements could do in the church and how that can impress outwards on the surrounding nations

Joseph and Daniel are examples to us of what happens when you take 'the combination' into world culture in mission

## DREAMS

Although there is occasion when God granted understanding for a specific dream (Judges 7:13-14), Daniel and Joseph were the only two dream-interpreters mentioned in the Bible who were consistent in this skill and sought this spiritual ability. This is striking if you consider all the other similarities they carried and the comparable outcomes of their lives.

## PROTOTYPES

**Daniel 1: 17 & 20** *As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams ... And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.*

**Interestingly, wisdom, knowledge and skill are all mentioned right alongside dream-interpretation.**

If these are the only dream-interpreters named in the Bible and they both exhibit very similar qualities, then there is much to be learned from the coalition of factors in their lives

**Dreams are a very important form of communication to God. They can be a plentiful source of exclusive help and information waiting to be tapped.**

Although not all dreams are from God, we may be surprised at how many dreams He does send us in an effort to catch our attention.

## DREAMS IN THE BIBLE

Our first Biblical example is found in the story of Abraham (Genesis 15:12-17), and we also find other Old Testament records such as: to Jacob (Genesis 31:10), Joseph's dreams of his future rule (Genesis 37:5-9), Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:1-7), Nebuchadnezzar's dreams (Daniel 2:1-3).

Dreams were considered such an important form of communication that several were given to protect the life of the infant Jesus (Mathew 1:20-21; 2:12-13; 2:19-20; 2:22-23).

When Solomon took over the Kingship from his father David, God visited him in a dream and told him he could ask what he wanted. He asked for wisdom to rule Israel well and was given wisdom of such prominence it was famed throughout the world. Can you imagine if Solomon had decided it was 'just a dream' and therefore



not of much consequence, as we do today? He would have missed this illustrious gifting and the capabilities it brought him (1 Kings 3:4-6).

In the stories of Joseph and Daniel, God chose dreams to unbolt the door for an Israelite to rise to second in command, to greatly impact the culture of nations and the hearts of two kings, bringing about public declaration from both as to God's supremacy above all other gods.

## INVENTIONS, KEYS AND STRATEGIES

God still uses dreams to converse with those who are listening, and many inventions, keys and strategies have been downloaded in the night watches through dreams

**Friedrich Kekule von Stradonitz** had two astounding dreams that led him to major discoveries in the field of organic chemistry. He told his colleagues, 'Let us learn to dream!'.<sup>4</sup>

**Madam C.J. Walker** (1867–1919) prayed for a cure from a scalp infection that caused much of her hair to fall out. She had a dream showing her to mix specific ingredients; when she tried it, her hair grew back with astonishing rapidity, so she began to manufacture and sell the product and became the first female multimillionaire through her business.<sup>4</sup>

Dreams bring us information and inspiration for our life and walk with God. Our soul does not resist the voice of God when we are asleep; it does not dismiss the message before the download is complete.

**When we are asleep, we cannot filter God's voice through our own biases, fears, hang-ups and experiences.**

If we only learned to tune in and try to understand the language of God, what could He be saying to us that we constantly miss?

God loves to forewarn or give a 'heads up' to prevent mistakes or so that we are better equipped for situations (Job 33:14–18).

## PROTOTYPES

Sometimes there will be a series of dreams with a similar or repeating theme to impress an important message until we understand its meaning.

But we can miss all of this by thinking God does not speak to us through dreams and visions, through the supernatural and the mysterious, even though the Bible is full of examples that this is His divine nature (Hosea 4:6).

Scripture strongly suggests that Joseph and Daniel didn't just wake up with the perfect gift of dream-interpretation, but it highlights a process of life and gift training. The breathtaking results enabled them to rise above the plethora of counterfeit spiritual sources in that day.

**Daniel 4:6-8** *Therefore I issued a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation. But at last Daniel came before me ... in him is the Spirit of the Holy God, and I told him the dream.*

Like Daniel, we stand in an age where people consult many spiritual sources, often oblivious to their dark taproot. But we have the 'Spirit of the Holy God' too: He is the Holy Spirit.

God is seeking for those who are eager to chase after the excellence of His Spirit, to move into positions of prominence and influence in the societies of the world so they can bring answers and demonstrate Kingdom.

**For God to grow us into the type of maturity needed to be Daniels and Josephs, we have to allow God to train us in many areas of our lives.** The journey will be different for each one of us, with unique twists and changes along the way as we respond increasingly to God's metamorphosis. The outcome is increasing access to a limitless God who can work through us to bring groundbreaking change and teach following generations what we discover.

## THE TIMES WE LIVE IN

**We are living in times when people everywhere need understanding, wisdom and celestial help.**

**Isaiah 60:2** (English Standard Version) *For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.*

God has promised that, as His people, we will shine – we just need to allow His light to radiate through us.

We live in opportune times, ripe for us to use holy resources to reshape the world around us. Let us ask and pray to enter the storehouse of heaven in faith, to gather what we need (Mathew 7:7-10)

The opportunities we seek can be granted through prayer, but as they open before us, an obedient response is central to obtaining increasing future provision.

In the last days, the times we live in now, God said that He would pour out His Spirit upon all people (Joel 2:28), not just Christians but all people, and the evidence is all around us.

**The 'kings and queens', those people of influence and power, are dreaming again.**

Pursuing instruction and practice in the ability to interpret dreams and sharpen our revelatory and spiritual gifting is certainly one way for God's church to rise and meet the blatant hunger, leading people to the true God and demonstrating His power as Jesus did.

Who will interpret the dreams of people of cultural influence and power?

Daniel and Joseph evidence *the combination* for the mission field of world culture, but they also demonstrate that God is giving significant messages to people of notoriety, through dreams, enigmas and mystical experiences, and He intends to pour out much more.

## PROTOTYPES

**We are surrounded by signs in a world dominated by an interest in the metaphysical.** We must remember that God often speaks to the world and His children in parables and mysteries. Meaning and clarity are found through close proximity to Him.

**Affectionate relationship for eternal destiny is God's ultimate goal for us – a life with love and power.** As we come closer towards Him to learn to interpret His language, we will deepen our relationship with him.

### EXERCISE: FULLFILLING YOUR GOD-GIVEN DREAMS

This exercise can be done on your own or in a group of three.

**1 Corinthians 2:9** *But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'*

Think of any important dreams you have had for you life. Are there any you feel have not been fulfilled, but you still feel like they should be?

Ask God if these dreams were from Him?

1) 5 minutes

Write down what you hear

2) 10 minutes

Discuss these dreams with your group and share. If you are on your own, spend more time speaking to God about these dreams.

## LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

3) 10 minutes

Now spend time in prayer about the dreams you feel God has given you. If you are in a group, pray for each other.

Pray for God to cleanse the dreams from any performance, striving, ambition, wrong motive or fear that hinders their fulfillment.

Ask God to restore the dreams and clear away lost hope, disappointment or resentment. (Proverbs 13:12: Hope deferred makes the heart sick).

Pray that God will breathe new life upon the dreams, and bring all that's needed to fulfill them.

Speak blessing and affirmation over the dreams.

### HOMEWORK: FULLFILLING YOUR GOD-GIVEN DREAMS

Spend time asking God what He wants you to do to move towards fulfilling these dreams.

It could be training/education, practice, positioning yourself differently in some area of your life, seeking deeper healing, finding out some information etc.

Be open to listen and write down what you hear.

How will you respond?

Now ask God if there are any new dreams He wants to give you and write down what you hear.

## PROTOTYPES

Is there anything God wants you to do to move towards fulfilling a new dream or dreams?

How will you respond?

### RELATIONSHIP

The pivotal element for both Daniel and Joseph was their relationship with God (Daniel 6:10). Tested beyond where many of us would have quit, they stood fast, uncompromising in the hedonistic and often crushing culture around them. Such resolve is found in one place alone: in a depth of bond with their Creator that knows complete acceptance, worth and love.

We can become distracted by the negative things occurring in the world around us; but the world around Daniel and Joseph was far from easy, and they had no choice but to live immersed in its center, as many of us have no choice in modern times.

Relationship with God was intertwined through their lives  
granting remarkable favor

**Potiphar could not help but notice that God gave Joseph success in everything he did.** The blessing that pursued Joseph flowed into Potiphar's estate, and so he entrusted him with his entire household (Genesis 39:2-6). This same presence and favor of God followed Joseph to prison:

**Genesis 39:20b-23** *Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.*

**When the favor and blessing of God are present in our lives, we keep running into His goodness and it spills onto others.**

No matter what situations we may encounter, if we develop this kind of presence and relationship with God, we live in the divine strength of knowing we are loved and guided – the strength of plan and purpose, even though we see in part.

## CLEARER

**As we draw close to God we can rise above situations and gain a higher perspective of the factors at work.**

A pattern forms as we look at some of the heroes God examples for us in the Bible: people like Moses, David, Solomon, Elijah, Esther, Deborah, Jonah and others, who faced more than many of us would today.

They were capacitated to live powerful lives to impact kings, queens and people of influence and governance in the world. The vital ingredient for us is to develop a close relationship with God, the source of all knowledge and power (Daniel 2:20).

**Romans 11:33** *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!*

## THE CREATIVE COMBINATION

**Both Daniel and Joseph walked in the combination of factors that we looked previously. It is the same combination present at Creation and found in the craftsman Bezalel.**

## PROTOTYPES

He demonstrated what 'the combination' looked like as God partnered with man to demonstrate it in His church for worship, glory, power and wisdom. Daniel and Joseph demonstrated what 'the combination' looked like when it is taken into the culture of the world.

### **THE COMBINATION**

Blueprints (ideas from Heaven) + Wisdom + Creativity + Spirit + Existing skill/ability + More skill/ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

There is more firepower available!

God can show each of us how to activate and live out this combination.

As we seek for illumination of purpose, present and future, we may see skills we are going to need but do not currently have. We can pray for new skills or the increase of existing ones.

**God is willing to equip the church in all sorts of new skills and tools to fulfill the commission on the lives of believers.**

Instead of looking at limitations and what we cannot do, we can operate new faith for heaven's downloads to increase competence, capacity and spiritual intelligence for the roles that need to be fulfilled.

### **CHARACTER**

The formation of Godly character secures a tough bedrock for gifting and anointing

It is hard to walk in close proximity to the heart of God and behave badly, because the Spirit convicts without condemnation; the motivation of love and God's faith in us helps us change, aiming upward.



**We must allow God to train our character; if we resist, He will not be able to trust us with weighty revelations, with positions of power and great impact, because He knows that we can harm ourselves and others around us.**

Character is the long-term stabilizer.

Joseph and Daniel confronted many tests; the promotions and demotions in their journeys worked maturation that could hold more gift and responsibility.

**The purpose of God's testing is to prepare for promotion.**

Practicing hearing from God regularly can help us to hear more clearly in the middle of a test and gain understanding and comfort.

Jesus taught us that the outcome of a close walk with Him would transform us from servants to friends. (John 15:15).

Part of character training for Joseph and Daniel was learning to serve the people God placed in authority over them. Remarkably, they received much favor, even though their leaders were not Godly or just, but actually dangerous and severely scary.

As we follow God's lead with humility into the situations we live in, we can pray and expect that God will give us favor and opportunity with those in authority over us.

Joseph demonstrated exceptional character when he was presented to Pharaoh after more than two years as an innocent in prison. When Pharaoh asked Joseph if he could interpret his dream, Joseph immediately pointed to God as the source of revelation and not his own gift (Genesis 41:16).

There is no record of revenge on the cup-bearer for forgetting to petition for his freedom two years earlier, and he shows complete respect for Pharaoh and serves under his leadership, leaving the past behind and stepping forwards into destiny.

## PROTOTYPES

His developed character is sorely tested when his brothers appear unexpectedly in Egypt, but he is able to extend extraordinary forgiveness and see the providence of a loving God in his journey (Genesis 42).

## SIGN OF THE TIMES

Ezekiel was a young man amongst the three thousand upper-class Jews who were exiled to Babylon in Daniel's day. He was considered a prophet and visited by various Jews for his wisdom and insights.

Jeremiah lived in Jerusalem in the same time frame, and they both prophesied to warn the Jews of God's judgment for their behavior, even though the Jews would not listen.

These were very tough times, when Israel did terrible things and turned against the Lord with idols. The Word says that their behavior was even worse than Sodom, which is hard to contemplate (Ezekiel 16:16, 30, 48–50), and God came down heavily on them (Ezekiel 6:11–14).

If we look at human behaviour in the world today, we could relate it to the description found in these passages

**Ezekiel 29:3** *O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies in the midst of his rivers.*

Both Daniel and Joseph lived during very troublesome times, with tyrants as rulers. The Jews were in such disobedience to God that Daniel and his three friends (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego) stayed in the faithful minority along with Ezekiel.

All these men were asked by God to do some very challenging things, yet it is because of their faith and fortitude that God did so many exploits through them that emphatically impacted a nation.

## WORKING WITH THE SUPERNATURAL

From so many accounts in Scripture, it is made plain to us that there is a heavenly host on hand to help us, yet we are often scared to explore connection or kinship in the fight, so we keep this apparent enigma at a distorted distance.

**We need to embrace the supernatural host and not be afraid to work with them.**

If we live a Christian life that does not acknowledge the supernatural ways of God in current times, we will miss opportunities to work with the heavenly help God sends us.

In the following record it is clear that God sent angelic help to save his servants. They refused to bow to the idols of King Nebuchadnezzar, who was in the action of carrying out his threat to make toast from anyone who disobeyed.

**Daniel 3: 22-25** *Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counsellors, 'Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?' They answered and said to the king, 'True, O king.' 'Look!' he answered, 'I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.'*

**We read of so many Biblical accounts like this where the supernatural realm entered our natural world and connected to work with God's people.**

## RECOGNIZING DIVINE HELP

Acts 12 tells a story of angelic help sent to rescue Peter from prison.

In the Bible, at least four types or ranks of angels are mentioned: Archangels, Angels, Cherubim and Seraphim. God may give a revelation or instructions through the medium of these heavenly messengers, or God may Himself give a revelation, as is shown in the Revelation of John through the person of Jesus Christ.

Daniel, Ezekiel and Jeremiah all saw visions and future insights; they had supernatural encounters with the angelic realm that carried responsibility.

## PROTOTYPES

The divine activity of the Kingdom is sent to message, strengthen and enlighten us bringing courage for the fight.

In the times we live in now and for those up ahead, this is an area that needs to progress as we see the plans of God unfold, we will need to coordinate with heaven's armies.

**We can begin to understand more about this area by studying these things in the Bible, reading the accounts of angelic encounters and the purpose for which they were sent.**

We can pray for understanding to be able to work with the realm of God's Spirit with growing sensitivity

The Bible reveals God's help, and answer is sometimes sent to us through visions, dreams and the angelic activity of His kingdom.

If we seek to keep a correct focus with Jesus as the central point, and not the pursuit of supernatural activity itself, it will serve to aid us in the great commission while revealing to us more of the fascinating character of God.

**We do not labor alone but like Elijah we can lift our vision to see there is more with us than with our adversary (2 Kings 6:15-17).**

If we live mainly within the experience of our five senses as Christians, passionate fire and faith diminish, life seems so ordinary and limited, and in all honesty we can become dull and limited as our light burns low. He never ever intended for our experience of Him to be dry and devoid of the creative, colourful, extraordinary Kingdom of His Spirit, or to live beside it but not able to see or sense it. God never meant us to walk apart from the supernatural because He is supernatural.

## IN THE GRIP OF THE WORLD

**The book of Daniel holds an essential and prototypical message for us today. There is further wisdom in Daniel Chapter 3.** King Nebuchadnezzar had a monumental statue formed to represent his deity and power.

He published a command that all must bow to this effigy when directed, to show utter submission to his rule (Daniel 3:1-6).

This equates starkly to the present world system, as we see some nations departing from God, Kingdom values are now being squeezed out and replaced by more base standards.

Nebuchadnezzar wanted everyone to bow to gold and idolatry.

In the West, particularly, we have seen many years of self-accomplishment and finance as the focus, and the building of personal empires and own goals, with the ensuing loss of community and 'love your neighbor as yourself'. The vacuous promise that wealth held many solutions and provided safety, security and happiness was believed by the masses. In those same years, idolatry has been rampant across many nations, encouraging the pursuit of any deity or desire; but now God is addressing those who have bowed to the gold statue (Psalms 96:5, 13; Psalms 97:7, 9).

In this biblical account it was those in power and government that bowed, modeling the example; but then godly men in positions of influence and government took a vigorous stand, changing the heart of a king and a nation. Such was Nebuchadnezzar's domination that this did not just affect Babylon – his decrees were far-reaching throughout the world.

## CREATIVITY USED AS THE GATEWAY TO IDOLATRY

**Daniel 3:4-7** *Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

The influences that set moral standards in the arts and entertainment industry cause the innocence of just twenty years ago to seem like nursery school. The idolatrous, pleasure-seeking themes amplify throughout fashion, film, TV, art, dance and music.

## PROTOTYPES

The gift of creativity has been developing in the world, with little substantial competition from Christian sources for many years now, and so the enemy's agenda has matured at a vigorous pace.

But answers lie in the lines of this biblical story.

Even though Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were high officials of the kingdom, they refused to bow to the prodigious idols in the surrounding culture, taking a valiant stand, even to the death. Their uncompromising submission to God protected them from the principalities and powers over that region where they served.

If we refuse to compromise and blend with society,  
if we decline to feed on the filth the world deems  
permissible and popular,  
if we pray in faith where God requests and do not  
completely detach from the cultures we live in,  
we can help to open new entrance points into areas of  
culture, gateways that distribute the character  
of Kingdom influence right to the heart of the power

**We need not be restrained by the old wineskins of evangelism**, but take our paradigm from Daniel and friends who did not use religious lecture to rail against the wrongs of others – they simply modeled Kingdom principles without budging.

**Daniel 3:16-18** *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

Perhaps we may find ourselves in the feverous furnace of pressure and extreme challenge, but take heart: it was in that moment that God released the supernatural potency of heaven to do something so sensational that it influenced the most powerful nation in the world in that day.

**Daniel 3:25** *'Look!' he answered, 'I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.'*

## THE DECLARATIONS OF KINGS

**Nebuchadnezzar made a lavish declaration throughout all the Kingdoms under his rule, that no one was allowed to speak a word against God (Daniel 3:28-29). Then he promoted the three godly men to positions of increased influence (Daniel 3:30).** He is further chastened by God in chapter 4 with several years of exile, but on restoration he extols God throughout the whole earth as the most high God.

When Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams of the coming famine and provided a strategy of victorious response, Pharaoh also found himself proclaiming: And Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?' (Genesis 41:38).

**Instantaneously he appointed this Hebrew slave with power over all Egypt, second only to himself.** Egypt was the greatest world nation of that time. That is a declaration that the God of Joseph was the most omnipotent and wise God over a culture saturated with false deity. Egyptians believed themselves far superior to Hebrews, so this was indeed an extreme proclamation.

We need to pray for strategy to take nations, as well as the people in our neighborhood

**Reaching out to individuals will always be part of our mandate as God's people, but we were also told to disciple and influence nations as Joseph and Daniel did (Mathew 28:19).**

**God is searching for such people who are prepared to operate throughout areas of culture and places of power.**

**Proverbs 8:1-3** *Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city.*

**Divine wisdom awaits us in the higher provinces of God, if we lift our eyes and pursue new levels of the Spirit.** It is available for us at the gates of the city, the cultures of the world, for us to reach people who do not know God and to communicate His incredible Kingdom and love for them.



# PURPOSE

## BEGINNINGS

Reaching out to those who don't know God changes you in a thousand ways, but for the best possible reasons.

The line between the true religion of God and the empty rules and traditions of man's religion become more defined as the Spirit teaches you what love and power really look like.

We can begin to realize that we do not just have a few boxes that we have confined God to, but sometimes we have a whole warehouse of carefully marked boxes labeled 'not for today', 'too risky and uncomfortable', 'not decent and in order' and 'not like church on Sunday'.

## RELEVANT

Much excellent training has been developed on learning how to progress in prophetic gifting, prophetic evangelism and many other forms of evangelism now in use.

**Luke 10:2** *Then He said to them, 'The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest'.*



God's church needs to learn to be relevant and ready  
to receive the huge harvest of souls promised

In recent years, the effects of prophetic, creative evangelism in various places around the globe has been astounding. Therefore we must ask why God is moving so powerfully through these tools and reaching thousands of people who would perhaps never walk into a church.

**If we, as God's church, will not go to the places that are full of seekers, where will those seekers go for answers?**

In Daniel's day, Babylon was full of spiritual sages worshiping a plethora of gods and idols. They looked for answers and meaning everywhere, building their culture on false deity and its iniquitous influences.

**Daniel 2:2** *Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.*

## NEW AGE

**The Babylonian sages were given endorsement at the highest level, with permission to operate as valid sources of answer and revelation for the lives of the people.**

Throughout the ages this has continued to various degrees, but the 1960s and 1970s saw a resurgence in popular culture with the advent of the New Age Movement. This is a western spiritual movement with its linchpin professing to be a complex combination of some eastern and western spiritual principles combined with self help, motivational psychology, holistic health, parapsychology, consciousness research and quantum physics.<sup>1</sup>

Its aim is to produce spirituality without restrictions, focusing on the mind, body and spirit and the interplay of these with spiritual and environmental influences. It encompasses both science and spirituality. Inspiration is often drawn from the practices of other world religions.

## PURPOSE

In fact, to try and define a lynchpin or set of standards would be impossible, as all that comes under the banner of the New Age seems to be almost borderless, ever changing and growing, like the altar to the unknown god that Paul found in Athens:

**Acts 17:23** *For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.*

**There is an astonishing increase in hunger for the supernatural and so we must ask ‘what’s happening out there?’.**

**Joel 2:28** reveals to us that in the last days: *I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*

The Spirit of God is awakening a great appetite  
for spiritual dimension in the earth

**The true religion of God extends outwards to connect with love through dreams, visions and experiences that cause the urgency of answer.**

Many people are seeking in all the wrong places, shopping in the supermarkets of New-Age philosophies to conjure remedy and resolution.

If the church will rise to provide spiritual food programs where the people already gather, not only will we attract them, but we have the opportunity to prevent them opening all sorts of doors to dark entanglements that masquerade as the answer.

Joseph, Daniel and his three friends were taken captive and educated to understand the culture they lived within. They did not decide to emotionally distance themselves from this culture because it was not the Hebrew way of life. Instead, they had to learn compassion and understanding for the civilization that God had called them to reach, so that they could be highly effective.

Their close relationship with God guided them to offer their best, to serve where they were positioned – right in the center of worldly culture, close to the heart of power.

Divine wisdom is not intended for church circles alone; its turbine was also destined to affect world culture, so that transforming Kingdom principles can manifest God throughout the globe

There is no evidence that the currently anticipated Holy Spirit awakening involves a conviction for people to flock to the nearest church building – but instead the Spirit stirs His people to equip and advance outward to the various areas of society, to the places where famished people gather.

We must depart from vague, directionless Christianity and prayerfully ascertain specifics as to where God is positioning us; what culture, what neighborhood, what people group?

Next, with the guidance of the Spirit, find out what the people need there, what is happening in that area of culture, what the issues at hand are and where the open doorways are. Then we need to ask God for great divine ideas and wisdom to bring Kingdom transformation to those places, just as Jesus did.

## PURPOSE

We have got it wrong if we think success only looks like those who stand on stages preaching to great seas of people. That is one consignment, but if we all did that then who would fill the other roles prepared for God's people?

**We work as a body, each of equal worth.** If we begin with the sharing of our God-given gifts to fulfill the great commission, if we start to reach towards one person at a time and are faithful with the day of small beginnings, God promises He will take us from glory to glory.

## PURPOSE

We live in an age that encourages a 'taste and see' mentality; but with each tasting, evil propagates and entwines its grip a little tighter

**All who taste truth will never find anything like that sense of calibration with their Father God – many just need a little time to discover the compass and orientate a new life direction.**

## GOING TO THEM

It was when Jesus went out to the people and sat with them, listened to them, loved them, that many others followed.

**Mark 2:15** *Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.*

As we draw closer to God, we see more and more until we dive new fathoms of the Kingdom beyond our limiting imaginations, and we experience the saturation of His presence. Then we take this to others.

Creative forms of evangelism allow us to explore what this might look like and the paradigm to draw on the unlimited resources of God for flexible and inventive ideas, so that we can be relevant manna for areas of culture rather than the size six shoe that is expected to fit all

## WAVES

An outpouring of spiritual appetite, dreams, visions and experiences has brought the creative, symbolic messages and riddles of God.

Street Pastors was someone's good idea one day and all the other expressions of prophetic and creative evangelism that have risen up in the last few years.

**There is more creativity to be poured out in the arts and media; more activating the creative DNA in God's people and the gathering of a creative army.**

We can explore some methods of evangelism that are currently thriving and connect them into the wider arena of creative solutions beginning to open before us. The aim is to allow increased creative latitude.

Divine creativity needs critical understanding,  
or it will be overlooked and lie dormant again  
amidst the dried out paintbrushes and forgotten  
ideas of time

If God is the Creator and we are made in His image, then we must seek for the missing understanding of what our divine creativity is and how we can access it.

Seeking will reveal the missing foundation and an abundance of colourful tools and gifts within God's church; these are some of the very things we lack when trying to understand some facets of who God is – facets that we also need so we can be relevant, powerful and beautiful as the bride, conveying the nature of Jesus to others.

## PURPOSE

### COURAGE

**The creativity of the Spirit cannot be premeditated. It is wild and free - a weapon that breaks the dry repetitive restraints of man-made religion.** It brings fresh dynamic through the creative expressions of the Holy Spirit. If we sanitize God and recoil from the supernatural side of His nature, then we can so easily miss what He is doing and the vibrant Christian life available to us.

As God's people open up to new possibilities, we will see a surge of new innovations, inventions, illumination, art and idea through God's church.

It takes bravery, obedience and perseverance to go out and reach people, but the heavy prize tips the scales without question.

As a result of reaching out, we grow in passion; we comprehend better who Jesus is and how He feels about people. To get out there and 'do the stuff', we must join with many biblical characters and show courage; but it changes us in a way that spending decades sitting in church cannot.

**Jesus demonstrated to us spending time in the temple and time out there with the people; He taught His disciples on the job, because you cannot replace practice with theory.**

So many people are just desperately seeking acceptance and worth in a world that values life so conditionally and nurtures it even less.

There are notable side effects of pursuing mission: many Christians germinate new confidence, distinguishing and developing gifts. Inter-church teams develop unity.

## SPACE FOR GIFTS

**There is new space to be able to use your spiritual gifts in outreach.**

We can be disappointed with church on Sunday because we cannot see a space to use some of our gifts.

The church is full of wonderfully gifted people, while outside it people are ravenous for divine words and actions that can inspire, affirm and help with the escalating tensions of life. They are seeking truth and answers.

Sadly, many people would no longer associate a church with providing spiritual answers – there is a perception that church and its attendees can be out-dated or strange, even judgmental. It is rarely seen as dynamic and friendly, yet that’s exactly what we are supposed to be.

In some churches, the activity of the Spirit is exciting and powerfully released. The key is to direct the flow out the door.

God’s church is sitting on stored dynamite, and the Bible shows us we have been given all we need in terms of our inheritance in Christ and spiritual gifts.

**1 Corinthians 12:8-11** *For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

There is fertile soil in the fields all around us; it is most certainly time for us to investigate these gifts and spiritual weapons that God has already bestowed. It is time to pick them up off the floor and find out how to use them with competence and power.

**Taking the time to learn about our spiritual gifts, how they operate and their role within the church and for the Kingdom should be foundational for all Christians.**

## PURPOSE

**Why are the gifts so important for evangelism?** Because Jesus used revelatory gifts to tell people about their lives, to bring healing and express the force of the Kingdom, to create a bridge between man and God.

**He left us with a weighty concept to consider** - that we would be able to do greater things than He had (John 14:12).

People need to feel the contact of a living God and the heart of the Father; when they do, they so often soften in His presence and open up.

**1 Corinthians 14:1,3** *Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.... But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.*

Why would God say this? Because He knew that, as well as building up the church, this tool would be vital in the world we live in, a world full of criticism and discouragement.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-7** *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

This says it all – love forms the bedrock.

**We can be supremely gifted and perpetually reaching out to others, but without the love of God in our core igniting motivation, it can all be of no significance.**

*'People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway. If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway. The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway. People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway. What you spend years building*



*may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway. People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway. Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.'* Dr Kent M. Keith in the Paradoxical Commandments<sup>2</sup>

These famous words have been pinned on the walls of Mother Teresa's shelters and in the rooms of presidents and great leaders. Dr Keith's point was that we should live like this because we do not live for man, but we do this for God and live in the source of His goodness and reward.

**1 Corinthians 14:3** *But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.*

It is so much more effective to allow the imaginative freedom of the Holy Spirit to show us precisely what people need in the moment and not to unleash a pre-designed Christian sales package because we believe that, if we can talk them through the information, we have success, another box ticked

We get to see the incredible grace of God at work.

*Recommended resource on prophetic evangelism training<sup>3</sup>*

## THE GREENHOUSE

**Ripe fruit can be harvested with ease, but if you try to yank a green plum off the stalk it will require force and remain green and hard.**

As Christians, we can feel pressure for results, during outreach, that must be evident before our eyes. However, if we pull out the standard Christian package and coerce, hurting people can easily feel pressurized to say something in an emotional moment, but it can lead to resentment and lukewarm believers.

## PURPOSE

In an age of hard-nosed selling, we need to be careful that our good intentions are not equated with such methods.

**Our role is to discern where the fruit is in the ripening process.**

**Discernment is one of the most important gifts to sharpen and use on outreach; it allows the ingenuity of the Spirit to direct us.**

If people are not ready to make a commitment, then our job is to help them soak in the 'Son' as much as possible, helping them to ripen further. If they seem ripe, we can explore gently, following the lead of the Spirit, to see if they would like to take the jump.

**The Engel Scale of Evangelism<sup>4</sup>** is vastly helpful in understanding the process of maturation and helps our expectations to carry balance and wisdom. A religious spirit needs to control and force the situation, whereas the Holy Spirit leads people to freedom with patience and love.

## THE ENGEL SCALE

- + 5 Fully committed
- + 4 Reproduction
- + 3 Growth
- + 2 Church involvement
- + 1 Initial discipleship

## **NEW CREATION (Salvation)**

- 1 Repentance and faith
- 2 Decision to act
- 3 Personal problems seen
- 4 Positive to Gospel
- 5 Consider Gospel
- 6 Understand Gospel
- 7 Heard of Gospel
- 8 Awareness of God
- 9 No awareness of God

**Matthew 4:23-24** *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.*

**We need to trust God to direct their next step and show us where we play a part.** Our focus should be on our relationship with God; drawing close, training our gifts and hearing instructions. As we carry them out, we hear some more and the adventure leads to the astonishing.<sup>5</sup>

**Many people cross stepping-stones in their journey towards God.**

We must not underestimate the substance of God working in peoples' lives; we cannot control that or make it happen at speed, but we can find the wisdom of heaven to guide us through timing and role when reaching others

## RAISE THE BARN

There is another group of Christians who are also engaging with God's awakening for harvest, yet they do not see themselves out on the streets with the homeless, interpreting dreams in a bar or face-painting, for example.

Many are grappling to see their place in the rising tide of conviction that it is time for God's church to reach out effectively. But if we are all out in the fields, who will care for the wheat in the barn? Who will disciple, aid and spend time with the bruised, helping them to understand the ways of God?

If we think of the barns as facilities within the church family where new seekers can be nurtured through developing connection and enlightenment, we can see a clear distinction between this vital resource and evangelism, which is the initial contact or encounters people have with God – the gathering of the wheat sheaves.

## PURPOSE

**Luke 10:2** *Then He said to them, 'The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest....'*

## FOLLOW

The conundrum we face is that, although people may have an extraordinary experience with God at an outreach event, some are not keen to frequent church on Sunday.

While many of us wade deeper into the fields of wheat, we are painfully aware of the need for new barns to be raised and for existing barns to be furnished and ready; there is a huge difference between what people encounter on an outreach and the experience of church on Sunday.

We also need to acknowledge and address repeated evidence. Bridges need to be built.

It is not a case of debasing what has gone before or throwing away our identity, our services and our buildings completely, but there is a glaring need for some new interpretations of church that allow new seekers and existing members to delve and probe in more creative ways

**The rise in creativity is already seeing innovative variety and ideas coming from God's people; we are reaching out further than we have been able to before, creating stepping stones all the way to a healthy life in Jesus.**

This will increase alongside the connection and construction of barns to gather and care for the incoming harvest.

All these things will require creative latitude for the Spirit. We will need to expand the dimensions of our faith and collaborate to a much greater extent with the supernatural side of the Kingdom, asking God constantly for ideas and solutions.

## SEEDS

At times we have limited the expression of church and evangelism, leaving believers afraid to share the Kingdom message outside the sanctioned methods

**Where people find new freedom and diversity, the laborers increase and so do the outcomes: love gifted in different packages that cause the starving to throng.**

**The treasure hunt for creative ideas must rise.**

## EXERCISE: REACHING OTHERS

**GROUP:** In a group of 3 or 4 people (preferably people you don't know well):

Prophesy/declare what you see over each other (5 minutes per person).

Take it in turns to be the person the others prophesy over.

Take it in turns to write the words down for each other.

What revelation is God bringing to exhort, encourage and activate each of you to bring His Kingdom to other people?

**INDIVIDUAL:** Listen to what God is saying to you and write it down.

## PURPOSE

### MEDIOCRE OR EXCELLENT

**Hebrews 5:14** *But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

There is a place for believers to explore, to see how the shoe feels; but it would be sad to think that nursery-level gifting is all we can offer as ambassadors for God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

We must graduate from working in the milk bar  
to the steak house with some dedication  
(Hebrews 5:12)

**2 Timothy 2:15** *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

**We find proof of those maturing the gift–character mix by the quality of fruit.**

Those willing to train gifts, seek scripture and wisdom and develop their relationship with God have more to offer and are able to weave more expertly through encounters using an assortment of tools.

There is a place for the application of education, but then there are things we can only learn on the job. Jesus took His disciples with Him, and taught them through holy escapade; we need both.

### OUT THERE

There are many different mission fields and roles within the church, at home and abroad, so it is imperative to define where God wants you to be. Who are the people, what is their culture, their language? It may not simply be geographically foreign, but also culturally foreign: street, high school, Goth, New Age or upper middle class.

**People come in all sorts of packages; if we cannot connect, we seem inconsequential to their lives.**

The world is full of information, but most people do not readily respond to God on the basis of information alone. The Word is living and people need to meet the author. We can use the tools that God has given us to partner with Him in the process

**The Holy Spirit's creativity offers a plethora of colourful and unique ways to connect unique people to God.**

## LANGUAGE

Most groups and organizations have a common language.

**We must normalize terminology and facilitate connections.**

What's wonderful about the arts and expressed creativity is that they can transcend words in visual form, or use words in a way that allows more latitude for personal application to the hearer, like a song or poetry. Thus we return yet again to the importance of symbolism.

**Words are powerful** (Ephesians 4:29).

**Proverbs 12:18** *There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.*

**Proverbs 18:21** *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Negative words voiced over a life can bind and decay a person, and many people live amongst the accumulated rotting rubbish of their effects. God's people come armed with affirmation and prophetic declaration that changes lives. A word of holy encouragement or a destiny defined can bring renewal.

## PURPOSE

Prophecy can be spoken, painted or danced;  
destiny can be declared through poetic license, and  
layers of message portayed through creative depth

*Recommended resource*<sup>6</sup>

## COMBINE HARVESTERS

God loves teams – they are designed to establish unity. God has little interest in stars and stages; the more gifted or experienced we become, the more it can be about raising up others.

As we forgo individualism and embrace the challenges  
of team work, we sharpen the blade and increasingly  
keep our eyes on the prize of Kingdom  
advancement together

## ADVANCING EVANGELISM

Consider new possibilities.

**If we allow the Spirit increasing freedom, what will happen?**

There are tipping points that take us into new dimensions of God.

## FACILITATING FREEDOM

**We often ask for more manifestation of the Spirit and then we offer Him a narrow, familiar channel through which to arrive.**



We would all love to see more healings, more miracles, more power; but there is danger in presenting the desired empty container to God, then expecting Him to fill it – disappointment can often follow, leading to frozen faith and frustration.

We allow the concerns of comfort to rise high above exploits.

But Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was, to find the blueprints, to seek the next stage - the thick, weighty presence of God; then he came out shining with the glory (Exodus 20:21).

It is time to allow the Spirit a much greater freedom

As creativity is restored to the church, and the people of God activate their creative and imaginative DNA and combine it with wisdom, two things will happen on the mission field:

- 1) New creative ideas and strategies for evangelism
- 2) Increased freedom of creative expression for the Holy Spirit through believers

## STRATEGIES FOR SEED

**Prolonged restriction generates lack of fresh vision and the cement of sameness. The Holy Spirit moves with creative fire and lacks no imagination.**

God wants to release His people from the confines of the constantly neat, tidy, restricted and repetitive.

As the church ascends to seize its creative DNA, new master-plans will emerge – new ideas to prospect and new creativity to reach people-groups. Fresh ideas and expression will come forward as God's people engage their own gifts and creativity, essential for the sickle that strikes the harvest fields. **We will see all sorts of problem-solving projects and teams ignite where the fire has been previously dim.**

## PURPOSE

**The early pioneers are the ones who hack a way through the undergrowth, before a small path materializes with some footfall.** Eventually a road will appear where many can travel more readily and in greater numbers. God is stirring pioneers and the adventures on their hearts that may have looked impossible before, but gracious timing is opening up a land of possibilities before them.

## STRUCTURE NOT STRANGULATION

As we learn to minister creativity at higher levels,  
good structure is essential

A solid framework underpins and encourages well-formed expansion. Without structural support a chaotic mess can develop.

The framework looks like good training in foundational faith values as well as gifts, skill and character.

We are used in the process as we continue to grow, while the Holy Spirit can move with increasing uniqueness and variation from this safe frame.

Man-made religion feels the need to control, to know the outcomes, to diminish all risk; control, repeat and continue until the creative manna goes stale.

**In creativity, if you truly want to keep things fresh, you are always learning new things.**

To soar within this arena, clear biblical guidelines of what is and what is not OK are needed, together with good training and practice.

## STRATEGICALLY PLACED

As well as an empowering of outreach teams that gather and do events or go to the streets or the homeless, an empowering of Christians in their work places and neighbourhoods is needed.

**We are all called to a missional life, and focus is needed to energize people with new creative evangelism in their workplaces and where they live.**

There is an army of Christians in the secular environment who have lots of Christian teaching and church experience, yet many do not seem to feel greatly empowered or equipped to share Kingdom in their working environment or locale.

In her book 'Invading the Seven Mountains with Intercession', Tommi Femrite says:

*'The workplace holds the power over resources that are either consecrated for the Kingdom of God or captured for the powers of darkness ... our God may own 'the cattle on a thousand hills' (Psalm 50:10), but in recent seasons the enemy has worked hard to steal as much of the church's inheritance as possible. And as Wall Street's corrupt leaders continue to be exposed, the need for a revolution of righteousness in the business arena becomes more and more apparent. Until intercessors will step up and stand in the gap for those who desire to operate upon this mountain with integrity and holiness, we will continue to find the church robbed of the resources that rightfully belong to us.'*<sup>7</sup>

That is an interesting thought, when we see churches so often struggling for finance and wondering where all the resources are. We also need to specifically empower those whom God has sent to the market place.

Imagine Christians armed with new strategy, commissioned and encouraged to make their workplace their mission field, encouraged to focus on the people around them, supported by a network of other Christians in similar circumstances.

'The workplace', does not just represent people in offices or similar; your workplace could be at home with small children. It is just where you find yourself on a daily basis doing your business.

**People are now surrounded by many rules and regulations that limit traditional evangelistic methods in their workplaces.**

What's needed are new creative ideas and resolution  
for diverse situations that rise above all these restrictions;  
the Holy Spirit is not restricted

## PURPOSE

Ideas should come from God's people on the ground, not repetitive 'one size fits all' programs, because one size will not.

There are heavenly strategies to come that will revolutionize this area, mostly through people who already work in situ.

We can look out in disbelief at where on earth the great harvest is going to come from in the West and indeed where the army of laborers is to gather it? **But much of the army is already strategically positioned in the workplaces, and we can see a new force of creative innovation in this area as we pray it in together.**

I am sure that, if many of us understood better what the advancement of the Kingdom looked like from God's perspective, we would be liberated into a new confidence that we have already been doing great things in the environment around us.

Joseph and Daniel didn't see anything ground-breaking happen for a long time, but quietly chipped away, sowing Kingdom and modeling Godliness in an environment that worshiped everything else but God. But they were also ready to step up to the platform with razor-sharp tools when the door of time opened before them. Their perspective of their God and their position was intact.

If we grasp we are limitless when we collaborate with the limitless Father, we will begin to expect solutions and innovative ideas that transform; our grid for what evangelism and Kingdom growth looks like will magnify and become liberating and diverse

## THE SEVEN MOUNTAIN MANDATE

Many years ago, Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ and Loren Cunningham, who founded Youth with a Mission, were on their way to meet together. On route God gave both of them the same revelation, which indicated seven mountains or areas of society that define a nation. It also revealed that capturing a nation for God would require apprehending all seven areas.

**Psalm 2:8** *Ask of me and I will give you the nations for an inheritance.*

The work of Dr Lance Wallnau<sup>8</sup> and the prophetic insights of Johnny Enlow<sup>9</sup> are excellent in developing that seminal vision. They greatly contribute to the enlightening we need to mobilize an army of believers in these times.

The seven-mountain message outlines seven areas of culture: media, the arts and entertainment, education, government, economy and business, religion, and family.

**What part will the upsurge of creative DNA play within this mandate?** I believe it will be one of the key ingredients to taking the nations once we have a clearer rendering that the creativity of God is a part of our inheritance to spark powerful change.

As the world continues to tremor around us, God's people do not have to be alarmed because it is our time to rise, to conspire in His amazing mandate to reach people and nations in these days.

**Luke 12:48** *From him to whom much is given, much is expected.*

**We have been given so much that the world needs.**

Interestingly, Enlow shares a vision he had of Joseph's coat of many colours, and the Lord called it 'The Seven Mountain Mantle'. He was shown that Joseph will carry the authority to displace the enemy and his darkness from the seven mountains of society.

In relation to what we have looked at and the qualities found in both Daniel and Joseph, it is important to note that they both moved in a high level of spiritual creativity. It was in their ability to interpret the dreams of kings and to live at a high level of creative wisdom (the master craftsman).

**Colour is also inseparable from creativity and art** - it is one of the main ingredients. You could not say that of mathematics or sport to the same degree. So it is no coincidence that the coat was made of many colours: God was trying to highlight a vital component.

## PURPOSE

The revival of creativity will be an absolutely integral key in the seven-mountain mandate. It will take heaven's wisdom to bring revolution to every mountain of culture

**There will be little room for one set of rules, one set of teaching tapes to show us all what to do.**

**What will be required are varied resources and a mature level of ability to work with the Holy Spirit closely and allow Him creative freedom for respective situations, as Daniel and Joseph did.**

We must learn to hear God's voice, to clasp the commission for us as individuals and as a collective. It is time to embrace the spiritual gifts He has assigned to accomplish the directive in these times.

**Daniel 2:21** *And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.*

One of the precepts of the 'seven-mountain' directive is a primal shift towards the demonstration of Kingdom principles as a way of advancing Kingdom, rather than only proposing to impact individuals through 'outreach' methods

In the western world this concept carries not only powerful potential, but also a very liberating direction for evangelism.

The Bible actually bears no record of Joseph or Daniel trying to convert anyone. Instead they lived as credible examples of Kingdom standards.

Through this lifestyle they were allied to God's sovereign power, enabling them to do things far beyond natural facility, such as administration and governance at the highest level, and dream interpretation. Their example reformed the minds of kings and thus affected multitudes.

**If we are to reap an entire harvest, then we need a flexible horizon encompassing a wide spectrum of ways to share God with people and draw them to His Kingdom.**

Thus we find ourselves in an age where a new scope of creative methods is needed to further heaven on earth.

As believers explore, they are being shown many techniques that take them under the radar of cultural strangleholds – insights such as the ability to affect a spiritual atmosphere, divine appointments, stepping stones and the beginning of advancing freedom to try creative methods that not only embrace the supernatural presence of God, but cannot work without it. This is the model Jesus gave us.

Joseph never had to strive for success, but he did strive to stay close to God even within a Godless environment. He did follow the road of Kingdom ethics, and God released great power and authority through him in a very different way than He did with Jesus - Joseph didn't work within an environment that gave him liberty to preach.

**What Joseph and Daniel did was determine proof of the existence of God and His power so that many believed.**

If some of us are called to influence kings and queens (men and women of influence and power), then who are the kings and queens in our sphere of influence?

Let's pray that God will give them dreams and spiritual experiences that we can interpret

**What skills do you have already that you can combine with the rest of the 'creative combination' so that God can increase what you have?**

Pray for doors of favor to open, doors of influence, and for the ability to understand the supernatural language of God.

## PURPOSE

### THE ARTS OF EVANGELISM

**The arts themselves can also be used as a preeminent tool in the coming days to connect people to God.**

When artists have a new understanding of divine creativity, they can create art that will cause emotional and physical change as people look at it or simply stay in its presence.

**The conduit of the Spirit-fueled arts can transmit healing, life and miracles.**

Many people in the world think Church is boring, but infectious fun is to be found in the waves of the Spirit – creativity is bursting with delights.

**All we have to do is start with who we are and what we have in our hand already, offering it to God and asking for the 'creative combination'.**

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Existing skill/ability + More skill/ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

Pioneers do not look for numbers to begin, just a small group of adventurers willing to pursue the vision. God will build the house if we are in His will; we do not have to fear smallness.

As the biblical story of Gideon exhibits, God likes to reduce our natural odds so that His ability is ever before us; and we cannot be tempted to congratulate ourselves with all the triumph, but instead repeatedly experience that He does awesome things through normal people, like us, to reach a world He loves.

### CHURCH FOR SEEKERS

Consider if the arts and other expressions of creative worship and message were more of an acceptable norm in our churches.



**We can focus on practicalities over spiritual depth and exploration, and wonder why God's presence feels faint in our midst.**

God longs to break out in the creative power that lies dormant.

Children absolutely love to be creative – the hard evidence of that is undeniable. Again God models something for us in the natural so we can draw lines to the spiritual environment required for seekers to flourish.

### **EXERCISE: WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND?**

Write down your answers:

Let God show you how you can reach other people with what you have already.

What do you feel are your main gifts/skills?

What are you really interested in and passionate about?

Ask God how you can use your gifts/skills and what you are passionate about, to share His Kingdom with others.

## PURPOSE

Perhaps He will give you ideas and starting points, or more insight into what you are doing already.  
Let God take you beyond the obvious and be open to the unexpected!

What do you feel you need in order to do this more effectively?

This could be confidence, boldness, sharper spiritual gifts, practical skills/gifts, favor or opportunity, etc

How can God help, what do you need? He wants you to ask.

**Matthew 7:7-11** *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

Remember the creative combination. Ask God to take what you have and combine it with the other elements to infuse new creative life and power.

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Skill/ability of man + More skill/ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

## HOMEWORK: WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND?

Write down your answers:

Which of the seven mountains of culture do you work in/are mainly involved with?

Media, Education, Religion, Family, Celebration (Arts and Entertainment), Government, Economy

What is your sphere of influence/what is the culture and people you have most influence on?

There are many gifts and skills that are highly effective to reach people in any area of the mountains.

Perhaps you are called to reach a diversity of people or to focus in on something more specific, like the field of engineering, science or teaching.

Ask God to show you how you can work with Him, to release Kingdom in these areas of influence.

Are there specific creative ideas He is giving you for strategy, innovative ideas, solutions, artistic works, etc?



## THE DIVINE IN THE EARTHLY

We talk of bringing Heaven to Earth, so what does Heaven look like, and what should we be bringing to Earth?

### REVELATION 21

**v1** *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

This speaks of the final regeneration when all things are made new, new heavens, new earth, new Jerusalem. Also see 2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Peter 3:13

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind”.  
Isaiah 65:17

There are two meanings for the word ‘new’ when the text was translated.

One of these (neos) relates to time; the other (kainos) speaks of quality.

The first meaning refers to something that has just come into existence and the other meaning of something fresh in what is familiar.

**In the new heavens and earth there will be a blend of the familiar we love with the completely new.**

*v2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Also see Revelation 21: 10

The city represents the bride of Christ and this refers to what it should look like, what we will be transformed into. The city comes down from heaven because the world will not transform into the optimal state. So the new Jerusalem must descend from God. To bring the Kingdom of heaven on earth today, there is a reaching up in the heavens, as it were, to pull things down in faith for transformation.

*v3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with (over) them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

*v4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.'*

Bringing the Kingdom looks like healing the sick, healing hearts and relieving pain (Acts 10:38)

*v5 Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'*

*v6 And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts'.*

**Colossians 1:17** *And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

Also see John 1:1

## DIVINE

The new creation is being made ready and like the early creation, it will rise out of the darkness and disorder in the world today. The first creation came from the earth which was without form and void (Genesis 1:2); it was perfect to sustain beauty and order. But sin and the destruction of man have ravished the creation, and so God will restore all things again.

**When the Kingdom of God touches earthly things it regenerates and restores. He will finish the work He started** (Colossians 1:20, Philippians 1:6).

He promises to give His life to those who are thirsty for spiritual life (Isaiah 55:1, John 7:37-38).

*v7-9 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife".*

Also see John 16:33, 1 John 5: 4-5

*v10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,...*

This is about seeing things from a higher perspective, a place of surrender and prayer.

*v11 ...having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.*

The city shimmered like a precious gem,  
light-filled, pulsing light.  
The Message Bible

**The glory of God replaces the light of the sun and moon** (Revelation 21:23, 22:5).

The glory of God speaks of His presence, the Shekinah, which means the dwelling or setting of the Divine Presence (Revelation 15:8) – like the tabernacle of Moses in the Sinai wilderness:

**Exodus 40:34** *Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*

We read of this incredible place where we are destined to go, full of light and ethereal beauty.

**There is a commission to reach into this heavenly beauty and to release its power on earth now. It is to see the Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven (Mathew 6:10).**

**v12** *Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.*

The mighty wall speaks of security and peace, with angelic protection; a place where no enemy will enter (Isaiah 26:1, Zechariah 2:5); a place where all the diversities of humanity come together in one family.

The heavenly and the earthly will all be together with angels, apostles, and patriarchs (v14).

**v13-14** *Three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

Twelve large stones form the basement of the wall and are inscribed with the names of the Apostles as recognition that it is on their teaching and witness for Christ that the great spiritual Jerusalem is built.

**v15-16** *And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs (1500 miles). Its length, breadth, and height are equal.*

Four often symbolizes God's creative works (for example creation: 4 seasons, four corners of the earth).

## DIVINE

The length, breadth and height are equal; the city presents the symbol of perfect symmetry of social order and community. The Word tells us that we are the living stones being built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:4).

**v17** *Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits (216 feet), according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.*

Also see Zechariah 2:2.

**v18** *The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.*

A wall of jasper crystal 216 feet thick with a city of pure Gold reveals beauty beyond our grasp – beauty is important to God!

The vast clear walls speak of no deception, nothing hidden from the Lord, honest open hearts before Him. They reflect the great light of His glory, allowing it to permeate the city and flow from it. The city is made of pure gold. Gold is likened to a refined, submitted character:

**Revelation 3:18** *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed;*

**v19-20** *The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.*

This picture with its many exquisite stones, sets the scene for the bride of Christ, adorned with beauty and colour – true spiritual riches, far more precious than the riches of the world (Mark 10: 28–31, Isaiah 54:12).

**The stones in the foundations of the wall are colourful and varied representing the foundation of the church as one of variety, diversity, gifts and skills, personalities and appearance.**



**v21** *The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

Through the twelve gates many diverse nations and peoples will enter the glory of the New Jerusalem. Throughout earlier history, pearls were so rare and expensive that they were greatly prized. They are an emblem of the highest truth, and thus represent that access comes through Jesus (John 14:6; Acts 4:11–12). It is the only precious stone that cannot be improved by the skill of man; no tools are used to enhance its form, just like the truth that sets people free (1 Corinthians 3:10).

**v22** *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*

The literal temple is to be replaced by a far more glorious spiritual temple when the age of the Christian Church looks like churches, ministries and organizations becoming one glorious church. The Lord literally becomes the temple, the dwelling-place of His people.

...and the name of the city from that day shall be:  
THE LORD IS THERE.  
Ezekiel 48:35

**v23** *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*

The Shekinah glory of God is light- holiness, wisdom (1 John 1:5) and Jesus came as the Light of the World (John 8:12). There will be no need for intermediate light sources.

**v24** *And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.*

This relates to the prophecies that state: 'All kings shall fall down before Him: all nations shall serve Him' (Psalms 72:11, 17).

## DIVINE

**v25-26** *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.*

All darkness, sin and sorrow shall be gone forever. The gates shall never be closed as men have discovered that all good things are from God, living their lives in constant communion with Him, bringing God their achievements (Isaiah 60:11).

**v27** *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.*

Reference for this section<sup>1</sup>

## THE FOUNDATION GEM STONES IN REVELATION 21

### 1. WALL OF JASPER

The construction of its wall was of jasper;  
and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.  
Revelation 21:18

**The city is of mythical proportions**, constructed as a square of equal length, breath and height each 1500 miles long (Revelation 21:16). The wall is 216 ft deep and it's foundations filled with coloured precious stones (Revelation 21:17, 19).

Jasper is a quartz: a very hard, durable, bright stone. It is similar to a quartz crystal, which reflects the colours of the rainbow within it. It symbolizes salvation that can never be made void; it is everlasting, and through it the light and glory of God can shine gloriously in a person's life.

**God and Christ are represented by the same precious stone:**

**Revelation 4:2-3b** *Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance*

The city is pure gold, like glass. This could either refer to the gold itself or the city but it illuminates the excellence of its state - the purity and freedom of the saints as the bride of Christ. The gold can no longer rust or become tarnished but remain pure, transmitting the glorious light of God forever.

Studies on the colours of the foundation stones seem to produce a random pattern of colour, but a study was done of Exodus 28:17–20 as part of a project called ‘The Revelation Painting’, that reveals that the colours could actually have formed a meaningful sequence.<sup>2</sup>

**2. SAPPHIRE**

Sapphire is next, but not necessarily blue sapphire – it could have been red. Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, and sapphire is the other gem variety of corundum. So ruby is actually a red sapphire, and in the past this is what it was known as.

**3. CHALCEDONY**

Chalcedony is most commonly light blue, but a rarer form is red-orange, with a more opaque quality than ruby.

**4. EMERALD**

Emerald is usually green, but one of the rarest and most precious stones in the world is a scarlet version. Emerald is a form of beryl, so this rare gem is also known as red beryl.

**5. SARDONYX**

This stone commonly comes in orange-red shades.

**6. SARDIUS**

This stone is most common in a vivid orange.

**7. CHRYSOLITE**

Chrysolite is known in shades of golden yellow, some with a green tint. A golden form is known as Heliodor-golden.

**8. BERYL**

Pure beryl is colourless, but it is frequently tinted by impurities that produce shades of green, blue, yellow, red and white. Golden beryl is a well-known yellow type, often with vivid golden colouring.

**9. TOPAZ**

Pure topaz is colourless and transparent, but is usually tinted by impurities that produce many colours. One variety is a green-blue.

**10. CHRYSOPRASE**

Chrysoprase is a gemstone variety of chalcedony and normally a green-blue 'teal' colour.

**11. JACINTH**

Jacinth is a reddish blue, 'indigo' or deep purple variety of zircon. This gemstone was known as hyacinth in ancient times.

**12. AMETHYST**

Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz.

Following the artist's theories and this line of discovery, it seemed like the first six foundation stones are like the pouring out of blood, as the shades of red fade into the vivid orange of blood plasma. Then comes the golden shades of God's glory into the other colours of the rainbow following in sequence.

**Jesus made the greatest sacrifice for humanity to be saved. He poured out His blood, leading to the promise and covenant of restoration for humanity so that we can have everlasting life.** This is the foundation of the heavenly city, the cost of the sacrifice and the glory of restoration.

Each stone represented a tribe or an apostle, based on the brightness and purity of their doctrine and lives, their zeal in the cause of Christ and their bravery and faithfulness to complete the journey (Revelation 21:14).

Reference for this section<sup>3</sup>

## THE RAINBOW

**Why are the colours of the rainbow significant?**

### THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

The rainbow is only found in three places in the Bible: in the first book (Genesis 1:13–16) and in the last book (Revelation 4:3, 10:1). The book of Ezekiel (1:28) also refers to a rainbow in relation to the glory of God.

The rainbow speaks of perfection, because this is when we are perfected: when we started, and when we become perfect again through God's glory.<sup>4</sup>

**Revelation 21:6** *And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.'*

### IN THE BEGINNING

In Genesis, the rainbow is given as a sign of mercy. After the great flood was sent to remove the evils of mankind from the earth, God makes a covenant with Noah (representing mankind) that he will not destroy the earth again. The sign of the rainbow marks this covenant (Genesis 9:12-16).

**Genesis 9:13** *I set My **rainbow** in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.*

## DIVINE

### THE GLORY OF THE LORD

In Ezekiel 1: 26-28 the prophet has a vision and sees the Lord upon His throne. Ezekiel speaks of the glory of God as being revealed through rainbow colours:

Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.  
Ezekiel 1:28

### IN THE END

Rainbows appear again in the prophetic book of Revelation, which foretell the end of man's rule on the earth and the coming of Jesus to set up his Kingdom.

The first mention of a rainbow in Revelation appears when the apostle John uses it to describe the glory and power of God on his throne:

**Revelation 4:1-3** *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.' Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.*

It is also mentioned in Revelation 10:1 as John describes an angel.

### GOD IS LIGHT

**1 John 1:5** *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

**Pure white light is made up of all colours** (it contains the primary colours). A dispersive prism can be used to break white light up into its fundamental spectral colours: the colours of the rainbow.

And so the purity and glory of who God is and His multifaceted nature are represented in colour. But this goes beyond merely symbolic representation, and leads us into questions of the meaning of colour – when used in purity and with the Spirit, what can we release with colour?

## COLOUR MEANINGS

Colours have various meanings through biblical references.

## MANIFOLD

**Therefore, if the rainbow colours depict God's glory, they would also represent the manifold or multifaceted nature of God's person** – each colour could represent a different facet of His glory or presence with us, for different purposes.

## DIVINE

Therefore, it would be important to know what God wants to release as we use colour in a certain time, for a certain purpose.

## JOSEPHS COAT

Joseph's life draws so many similarities with the life of Jesus; he is often seen as a type and foreshadowing of Christ

As we saw before, Joseph was a prototype for the times we live in now; he modeled crucial keys for the current age that we are going to need.

What did he model?

**Genesis 37:3** *Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colours.*

The word many also means manifold or multifarious.

The manifold colours of the rainbow indicated the glory of God in Ezekiel 1:26-28

So Joseph's manifold-coloured coat was a signal: that the glory of God would be released through His manifold nature in these times.

Creativity and wisdom are part of the core nature of who God is. (Genesis 1:1).



## COLOUR: THE CRITICAL COMPONENT

When God made the earth, 'the Creation' (Psalm 104),  
He clearly showed us that colour was a critical  
component of creativity

It reveals variety, definition and glory in a way black  
and white never could. It reveals the manifold nature  
of God - colour depicts the glory of God's presence

Joseph was highly gifted and was given divine wisdom for government, administration, management, strategy and economy on the highest level.

**He also moved in a high level of the creative power of God as demonstrated in the gift of prophecy and the ability to understand the creative, metaphorical language of God.**

The life of Joseph and symbolic representation of the coloured coat demonstrate for us that the areas we have termed 'creative' and 'non-creative' are not intended to be split. But all areas are intended to work with divine creativity to infuse new life and release the glory of God.

**His coat was a signal of this, a prophetic sign over his life that he would model this 'wholeness'.**

I believe God was trying to show us a model of linking all the areas of skill and life to His creative DNA to achieve breakthrough solution and wisdom - **that we would see the glory and presence of God being poured out through creativity in all areas. This will be a mighty weapon of the army of the end-times.**

## END OF DAYS

In the visions of the gemstones in the walls of the holy city (Revelation 21:19 -20) and the rainbow colours depicting the glory of God in Ezekiel 1: 26 -28, we are given a glimpse of where we are going and of what is important as we head towards the end of days.

What does God want us to see about the heavenly realm that we are to bring to earth - to open the door and usher in the Kingdom?

## THE ARMY

**So a powerful weapon of the end-times army is the glory-filled creativity of God that brings solution against the schemes of the enemy; it brings breakthrough, answers and strategy that carries heavenly fire-power.**

There is the weapon of art that will carry the purity and power of the Spirit, prophesying and bringing healing, message, gritty truth and testimony in colourful diversity.

There is the weapon of creativity which can lead us into profound depths of worship – the plunge-pools of God where we find new revelation, ideas, solutions; and so it continues.

JOSEPH - MANY COLOURED COAT - THE GLORY AND PRESENCE OF GOD RELEASED THROUGH CREATIVITY IN ALL AREAS (FREEDOM) - THE WEAPON OF AN END-TIMES ARMY TO BRING IN THE GREAT HARVEST

Remember: the tabernacles of Moses and Solomon taught us what creativity and wisdom could do in the church and how they can impact outwards on the surrounding nations. Joseph and Daniel are examples to us of what happens when you take 'the combination' into world culture in mission.

**EXERCISE: LECTIO DIVINIA, REVELATION 21:22-24**

The Glory of the New Jerusalem

**Revelation 21:22-24** *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.*

**GROUP VERSION**

Get into a group of 4 if possible (or a group of 2 or 3).

Each person takes it in turns to read the passage of scripture aloud slowly until it has been read four times.

The first reading: everyone is to try and just listen, letting go of assumptions and previous knowledge for a minute.

The second reading: read the passage and listen again but see if any words or phrases stand out to you.

Pause for a few minutes.

The third reading: read the passage and listen again; and afterwards, each member of the group is to take it in turns to share briefly about what this passage is teaching them.

Don't discuss; just share.

The fourth reading: read the passage and listen more deeply; allow God to speak to you again. If you have anything else you wish to share, do so briefly with the group.

**INDIVIDUAL**

These steps can also be worked through by individuals. Write down anything you hear from God after the third and fourth reading.

## BEAUTY

*“We do not want to merely ‘see’ beauty – though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words – to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it.*

*At present we are on the outside... the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the pleasures we see. But all the pages of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. Someday, God willing, we shall get ‘in’... We will put on glory ... that greater glory of which Nature is only the first sketch. C.S. Lewis<sup>5</sup>*

A dictionary meaning for beauty is:<sup>6</sup>

- The quality present in a thing or person that gives intense pleasure or deep satisfaction to the mind, whether arising from sensory manifestations (as shape, colour, sound, etc).
- A meaningful design or pattern, or something else (as a personality in which high spiritual qualities are manifest)
- A beautiful person
- A beautiful thing, as a work of art or a building, or in nature
- An individually pleasing or beautiful quality, for example grace or charm.

Beauty can mean many different things to many different people. As Christians we often think of beauty as things like a character that displays the fruits of the Spirit such as kindness, gentleness or faithfulness. There is the beauty of holiness (1 Chronicles 16:29).

## THE RESTORATION OF BEAUTY

The city in Revelation 21 describes where we are going. It is the bride of Christ, adorned for her husband (v2).

We are not shown the symbolism of a standard city of grey stone or brick with the focus on function and practicality alone.

We are shown that the church is to become something of magnificent beauty, of dazzling light with colours of the rainbow all around. The buildings are of pure, untarnished gold, clear like glass (v18)

**It's an image of unprecedented beauty. We cannot diminish this immense beauty that is portrayed for us as symbolism alone.**

*Psalm 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.*

What we perceive as beautiful draws us towards it, to want to discover more about it; like a person, a painting or a garden.

When the light of God is released there is a beauty that draws people towards it. When we release the light of God, beauty should be the outcome

As we trace the character of the Creator through His Creation, the earth, we find stunning artistry and detailed exquisite beauty. We must understand this is an essential part of His character and embrace it to be able to release the fullness of His Spirit and make a difference.

God placed within us the desire beauty; we are drawn towards it because it points to Him.

**The restoration of creativity, the arts and beauty in the church is part of the bride of Christ being prepared for her husband.**

Revelation 21 shows us that where His light is released, there is beauty and the glory of God. As you release what is beautiful to you through the gifts God has given you, it will release the glory of God.

**We need to explore the beauty of God to be able to release Heaven on Earth.**

## THE RISING ARMY

### CREATIVE WARRIORS

**Creative warriors are needed in the army of God, warriors like Joseph and Daniel.**

### DAVID

David modeled for us a creative warrior. He was a musician, a poet and a great king - a general of the army of God's people in Israel.

He became a great leader by using what he had in his hand already. When he went out to fight Goliath, he used a sling shot – not the obvious armor, sword and shield (1 Samuel 17).

David was victorious by using the skill he had already, and by asking God to meet him in his courage to fight the opposition against Israel. It was such a huge victory that it completely changed his life and the course of history.

**David was a prolific worshiper through music, poetry and intimate communion with God. He was also a great leader of the army, with strategy, solutions and tactics.**

Like Joseph, he demonstrated that valuing  
creativity equally in all the areas of his calling  
had very powerful results

**What are the weapons we have in our hands already that we can combine with 'the combination' to become creative warriors?**

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Skill/ability of man + More skill/ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

## WHY IS THE OPPOSITION SO FIERCE?

Ezekiel 28 is a lamentation over the corrupt ways of the King of Tyre but the second part of this lamentation seems to stop referring to man and start referring to a spiritual being (v 11-19):

*You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

*You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.*

*The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.*

*You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*

*You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.*

*By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.*

*Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground.*

Satan was perhaps the most beautiful of all the angels, made to reflect the beauty of God, resplendent in colour and gifted with creativity. Then he fell, rebelling through pride and greed, no longer able to bring divine and original creativity into being. His works are now tainted with darkness, and only able to counterfeit the works of God in poor reflection.

He comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

Remember Zechariah 1:18-21, which speaks of the four craftsmen coming to terrify the demonic strongholds that have oppressed the nations.

The enemy is terrified of God's people getting hold of their creative DNA, because he knows that divine creativity, linked with the other factors in 'the combination', can become a limitless weapon against oppression. It sparks answers because the Creator is limitless, and there is no problem too large or multifarious.

## DIVINE

### WEAPONS

Divine creativity can be used as a weapon in  
so many ways if we will understand its prize  
and seek to use it

We need to understand the metaphorical, creative language of God to gain powerful revelation and solution through dreams, visions, parables, etc.

There are creative and manifold ways to share the gospel to be relevant to the age we live in - an age full of choice, media and artistry (relevant evangelism methods).

We can help to restore the arts in the church and develop the artisans to their rightful place to see this weapon come into maturity.

We can raise up people to use their gifts in the seven mountains of culture and teach them to combine them with their creative DNA.

What other ways can you think of?

### A WARRIOR

The term 'warrior' refers to a person who is experienced in warfare and has shown great vigor or courage.

We think of warriors as associated with great achievement, bravery, skill, confidence and honor.

#### **TRAITS OF A WARRIOR**

They develop discipline of body, mind and spirit for longevity on the journey.

They develop a strong mental focus to press onwards and complete the mission.



## LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

They develop perseverance to be able to endure pain, discomfort, discouragement and failure at times, without giving up.

They take time to train in their skills/gifts (weapons).

Warriors choose to engage with battle when it's needed, they are compassionate and are able to make good moral judgments.

A warrior is flexible and adaptable, able to act independently as well as be a team player.

They take responsibility for their own choices, understanding that actions have consequences.

A warrior does not make personal glory a goal, understanding its shallow and temporal nature. They do not compromise the principles they know are true and important.

If a warrior is involved with a cause to bring righteousness, he/she will fight with sacrifice, passion, skill and perseverance, knowing that Christ brought assured victory.

Victory and defeat are a matter of spirit more than of body. A warrior is never defeated as long as his/her spirit is not defeated or broken.

If a warrior survives or falls in battle without conceding, his/her spirit man grows stronger.

A warrior has embraced a journey with God of refining and discovering, so he/she can help others.

DIVINE

EXERCISE: LECTO DIVINIA, REVELATION 21: 18-20

**THE HEAVENLY CITY/THE IMAGE OF THE BRIDE**

The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

The foundations of the walls of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones:

the first foundation was jasper

the second sapphire,

the third chalcedony,

the fourth emerald,

the fifth sardonyx,

the sixth sardius,

the seventh chrysolite,

the eighth beryl,

the ninth topaz,

the tenth chrysoprase,

the eleventh jacinth,

the twelfth amethyst.

The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl.

And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

(Revelation 21: 18-21)





## RELEASE

So in practical terms, what is required to release new creativity in God's people, and how can we take steps towards that?

Each community or individual needs to start with an authentic decision to work with God, allowing the facility of new creativity for any area of life, any calling, any gift.

Then we must allow the intertwining purpose of the arts to come forward and take its place in this process, helping to activate spiritual creativity for all God's people.

Restoration without reason will be short-lived and may meet the same reception from others as previous creative attempts.

**New creative ideas and strategies will also need a welcoming space in order to come forward, with encouragement for exploration.**

## OPEN THE DOOR

Imagine our forgotten heavenly creativity to be like discovering a neglected walled garden: it was there all the time, but the realization is only just dawning that there is a door

The first step is to undo the bolts deliberately, dust off the webs, take a deep breath and open the door

The garden is vast and exquisite, but has been largely untended for many decades. In amongst the inevitable weeds are many beautiful plants, flowers, trees and birds of many species and colours. But they have been neglected for an age and need some assistance to be set in order again – given boundaries for their species, so they can thrive together in synergy.

This is not the garden of a new-build house with little but grass. Creativity and the arts have been progressing for thousands of years - it would be a mistake to treat them like a grass patch.

The key is the willingness to find the mature plants that have wandered without guidance, like resplendent rambling roses. If you think of the large plants as mature gifts and significant callings, some tending and a frame of healthy support and direction are required. If they have these, climbers climb high and cover large areas with great beauty.

When weeds are removed, flowers can emerge no longer choked with misunderstanding and rejection. As the weeds of scorn, criticism and the forgotten value of creativity are addressed, there will be room for new shoots and species to be planted and grow.

When the guiding framework (comprising character and a grasp of the purpose of gifting) is restored to the different areas of God's creative DNA, there is harmony for the intended yield of beauty and strength.

## RELEASE

Watered and tended, this garden could be glorious: filled with a great variety of new life, scented and fruitful - the fresh air of heavenly breath that breathes the new into position.

A significant volume of our creative DNA lies choked by the weeds of history and perception, imprisoned by the lie that it is superfluous, low in power and treasure, and that much of it is simply owned by the world. **But the Holy Spirit is an amazing gardener who does daring deeds through people.**

## GATHER THE GARDENERS

Once the decision is made to unlock the door, the next step is to start with prayer, asking God to gather like-minded people: the artisans and God's people who respond – all those who see this revelation emerging.

**Prayer is a prerequisite for the clearance of negative weeds, preconceptions, lies and criticism that have choked the Holy Spirit's creativity in God's people.**

Remember: creativity goes hand-in-hand with wisdom, so it is necessary to pray for that along with new revelation and divine understanding.

## EMERGE

As the misconceptions clear, people in your group or church will start to emerge with their brand of ingenuity, because they will feel the advancing spiritual freedom to come forward. They will sense new safety; the shading of prayer will alter atmosphere from exclusion to acceptance and protect the new creativity from thorns.

As pioneers explore new freedom for creativity and exploration, this can strongly influence the wider radius of people within a searching Christian community.

**Hebrews 12:1** *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...*

As new life invigorates the church, it is then crucial that it is then directed outwards to those in desperate need of eternal life. In this way we will continue to tap the depth of God as its source.

**Revelation 22:1-2** *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

## PEST CONTROL

The creativity of the Holy Spirit is advancing to confront any control in God's church that masquerades as His identity. This is an effective weapon because in its very nature it cannot be rigidly controlled. It requires the depth of the Spirit and wholehearted trust in God's ability to bear life.

The enemy will particularly harass something in its infancy because it is easier to stop a few children than a fully formed army. But if the pioneers will stand together and pray with conviction, it is possible to break spiritual strongholds at work in Christian communities, which suck the very life from their midst.

We must be galvanized by the many examples of biblical courage where the few brought great change for the better in their time.

Jesus is a good example of this. He often contended with the religious spirit that sought to stifle people's lives through control. If we respond with love, sensitivity and prayer, then inroads can be made by intrepidly following the Spirit's navigation.

## RELEASE

We need to survey the creative garden in our Christian communities near and far, take a deep breath and make an assessment; some areas need some work, being covered in weeds, overgrown and neglected. We cannot expect to open the door to this forsaken garden and find a botanical paradise in precise arrangement with paths in place. But we can begin to work with the head gardener and learn how to reclaim, preparing it for the changes soon to come and the generations of the future.

## TWO AREAS

### **There are two areas to consider:**

1. The general release and stirring of the creative DNA in every believer that can energize any area of their gifts and calling; this has been discussed previously.
2. The Christian artisans; those who show substantial gift and passion for an area of creative skill and possess significant Kingdom calling to use it.

## ARTISANS

The role of mature Christian artisans is multifaceted, but especially it is to help stir and assist the release of the creative DNA in all God's people again

There are Christian artisans at all levels of development and so we must consider how to help them progress so they can fully contribute to the body.

Many Christian artisans have been trained outside the church; and the framework of the world is based on performance and self-effort.

It is time to cultivate enlightened direction and location for God's artisans and all His creative people without disparaging the day of new beginnings.



## MISSING

Music has been greatly championed as the creative epicenter of church worship; it is essential, and contains many opportunities for artisans to contribute. Either it can take us into a euphoric glory cloud or we can find ourselves endlessly singing the same songs that feel dry and repetitive.

What about worship through the different forms of creativity? What depths does God have waiting for us to discover as we develop the other areas in worship, intercession, mission, discipleship, teaching, prophecy, etc.?

During restorative processes, we are often learning on the job and forming a bank of knowledge and experience.

We must allow for the nursery before we can expect high school.

**If we never let this develop again in the church, we will close the door to this prophetic powerhouse meant for God's people.**

## THE FRAMEWORK FOR FLIGHT

Setting good standards and expectations from the outset helps people find biblical boundary. This applies to everyone and to the ingenuity that will come forward from any of God's people

Artists, particularly, are often labeled as rather alternative, disorganized people. Many of them have heard this so often they have accepted this box for themselves; but the truth is that, in the Kingdom, they need a good structure to support them and Kingdom standards to live by, just like everyone else.

Weak character and lack of vision do not produce powerful Kingdom artistry with distinction.

## TRAINING

Beyond good teaching of the foundations of the Christian faith, there are other areas that need development for all God's people.

A foundational training course in learning to hear from God and understand the different ways He speaks to us would be the starting point. Courses like 'The Art of Hearing God' by John Paul Jackson include clarification on many other areas, such as character and the spiritual journey, that would be invaluable to anyone.

Gaps left in any foundation will weaken output and so we must all seek the foundations of durability for any gift.

**The creative people of God must be taught their purpose within the church and the mountains of culture to enable them to move beyond where they are now.**

## SPIRITUAL DNA

There are important factors to grasp before new creativity can be maturely released.

An understanding of 'the combination' will release new patterns of hope and spiritual productivity:

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Existing skill/ability + More skill/ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

**The artistic and creative people of the Kingdom need to throw off the label of being undisciplined or lacking order.** This is not to say that creativity is to be constrained or controlled within unrealistic expectations, but that the important traits of Kingdom character should apply to all of us; and we can seek God's enabling to become stronger in weak areas.

## WEIGHTY FOUNDATION

**There are no magic shortcuts, because training, development and maturation are just part of the journey; and the Kingdom of God is all about journey and not just destination.**

**Romans 5:3-5** *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

Humility keeps us open to what God has to say. It keeps us willing to learn and produces the vital combination of hungry, humble and teachable

When we elevate gift above character-progression, our senses become dulled to our sliding attitudes and actions.

**Character keeps us strong for the long haul. It plants our feet on the rock and helps us stand when people treat us nicely or when situations are rough.** If the focus is on gift we begin to seek the approval and applause of man.

Gifts are endowed by God, but character must be worked in a person to bring a measure of experiential insight that can grasp the things of God that release change and force.

## HEALING: PRESENCE NOT PERFECTIONISM

A primary step towards progress is the healing of God's creative people. Many have been shut down as this area has been misunderstood in our churches or within a world culture that offers a form of esteem through vicious competition.

Many creative Christians are caught between the two worlds.

Shawn Bolz said that there would come a time when we look back on this era of the church with disbelief that there was so little colour and creative expression, and probably call it 'The Dark Ages'!<sup>1</sup>

God wants to exchange the rejection, the belief of failure and hopelessness, the weariness, the sense of smallness and limitation for new expansive vistas

Although many people have suffered at the hands of ignorance, there is nothing to be gained from holding resentment or projecting blame.

We need to understand this is a timely shift and that history has been largely responsible for the perceptions of this area within God's house.

**We must also see that some of our experiences have been caused by the opposing ranks of the enemy, terrified of what God's creative people could do if they rose up.**

## CLEANING THE PIPES

As we reposition to receive, we need to be clean vessels.

Have we drawn from erroneous wells - wells of the world, of the soul or from the dark well of the enemy – to inspire and feed our inspiration?

Have we compromised and had a foot in both camps, perhaps confused by a lack of guidance?

Have we used the gifts God has given us for purposes outside His Kingdom?

Have we been lazy and ignored the prompting of God to cultivate the gifts He gave us?

Have we settled for mediocre and not pursued an excellence of character or call?

Such activities can be responsible for deficient inspiration and original thought.

If you have longed for visions or dreams from God and desire a heightened experience of the Spirit – but struggle to get there – allowing God to wash you clean from the build-up of these activities will surely help.

We can ask God to bring to mind the debris that needs to be placed on the altar of repentance, so that the spring-clean can invigorate our ability to hear the voice of God more easily and catch a new spark. Let's offer Him all that we are and have, clean and set in order.

**Isaiah 60:2** *For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*

We carry the light inside - we carry God's glory, which will shine brighter in this age because so much darkness is on the earth.

There is more revelation available to those who seek it.  
So let us allow God to clean us up and position  
ourselves to catch and radiate intense light

## DECLARATION

Within the area of the arts, more than in most other arenas, it seems acceptable that our creativity is wide open to critique and the assessment of others.

In the Kingdom, iron sharpens iron out of love, lifting up not ripping apart.

But as yet, there is limited practical training for Kingdom creativity, so Christian artisans and creatives are mainly channeled through the world system. They are frequently beaten down by cold criticism, until the joy of innovation is greatly diminished and the fear of experimentation anchors the sails of progress.

Creativity becomes tainted with the fear of rejection

We can begin to adopt the pattern of constant judgment for our own work.

To break this pattern, we need to repent of inadvertently or intentionally agreeing with the enemy's commentary, and assert positive pronouncement over our creativity. Freedom follows so we can create in the joy God intended.

## CLEAN UP THE OIL SPILL

### **Repentance clears the way.**

Repentance is required by God's church for having rejected the creative gifts of the Spirit and having handed them to the world, even unknowingly. They have been used to bring harm to the church and further the schemes of the enemy.

Repentance is also needed for rejecting the artisans as a people group and for wasting the resource that should have been empowered by the embrace of the church.

Like all historical changes, this can start with a few humble hearts willing to fill the gap with prayer. It is not about blame, as we have discussed, but about change.

The vision is to gather as God's creative army for the greater good. In that place we find the new healing of acceptance; it will not be found in the rehearsing of personal afflictions.

Artisans also need to repent if their behavior has been amiss. Are we a great blessing to our leaders as creative people? Or are we demanding, touchy, unreliable and lacking in character, excusing it as the 'artistic temperament' or wearing the badge of rejection as an identity?

If we want to see things change, then first we must  
humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will  
lift us up (James 4:10)

## SANCTIFIED IMAGINATION

God has the most prolific imagination.

When the Hubble telescope was launched in 1990<sup>2</sup> it took a picture right beside the moon of what was thought to be empty space; but what they found were images explosively full of kaleidoscopic colour and light, just hanging out there in lonely space. There will be many more such areas of space we will never see.

Apparently we know more about space than we do about the oceans right here on earth. So far, 230,000 species have been discovered in the oceans, including some of the most alien-looking works of art, and they are all alive and thriving far beneath the deep dark waters. Some radiate an internal lighting within mysterious shapes, and again we see so little of what is there – a sliver of His creativity. And apart from those, there are the millions of species of birds, animals, plants and trees. We can hardly comprehend even a small fragment of His expansive creation.

If we are like Him (made in His image), then our imagination must be connected to the infinite dynamo of God that can ‘see’ something before it is created.

**Imagination is the gift, the tool, He has given us to bridge the unseen realm.**

*Colossians 1:16-17 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

**Just as with our gifts, we can choose to connect to the work of the enemy or the life of the Spirit.**

When we feed our imagination with the murky fodder of enemy inspiration it creates fearful scenarios of danger, failure or rejection. When we fuel it with our fleshy aspirations and carnality of soul we will orchestrate images that feast those desires and lusts. If, however, we connect it to the Spirit to be nourished with God’s essence, it can be used as an instrument, networking us to the realm of the omniscient God.

Faith is the substance of things not seen - connecting it with the mechanism of imagination can help us to ‘see’ what is possible through God (Hebrews 11:1)

**Creativity and imagination are inextricably intertwined, and both need reclaimed and sanctified for heavenly productivity.** It is time to extract this gift from the jumbled perceptions of its mechanics and view it as a gift or tool.

## RELEASE

As with any other gift from God, the choice lies with the owner as to how it is used – much like revelatory gifting, which can be used to tune in to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (clairvoyants and similar) or the tree of life (prophetic gift). Imagination will respond to whatever we feed into it, as will creativity – we have watched both tools be used by the world to devise evil.

**Imagination also has a powerful effect on will.** What we imagine of ourselves, or of the outcomes of particular events, we can begin to believe, and even move towards that belief as if it were fact. We can then allow our actions to align with the process.

Our imagination can be used as fertile soil for the enemy's tactics of fear. Alternatively, we can choose to stand guard and allow only the Spirit and faith to alight there, deliberately swatting any fearful flies and dark thoughts to deny them a landing site (2 Corinthians 10:5). Let's not allow our imaginations to restrict our destiny in God.

Technology has accelerated, enabling the composition of magical lands with mythical creatures and animated adventures of survival, with astounding clarity and dimension. It can take the tools of human creativity and imagination to dizzying heights of global impact.

Many of us are inspired by the creativity of others - it can draw out our own creativity and engulf us in fascinating escapades.

**As God's people, we are to be guardians of our imagination, and thus our creativity, nourishing them with faith and the Spirit so they are powerful.** They connect to our perceptions and actions and inspire us to seek heaven which has substance in this life and eternal impact.

**God gave us imagination to be a powerful tool for a life of faith. When our imagination is cleaned up, sanctified and devoted to God, He can bring healing and growth to this gift.**

Practicing the connectivity of sanctified imagination and Spirit sharpens the tool and opens an expressive visual language. God can show us things that blow up our boxed thinking, revealing panoramic perspective, filling our heart with the Kingdom of Heaven and its beauty. We can be transported from the ordinary world surrounding us to a place of such divine wonder that we are left with a sense of eternity.

What does your journey 'look' like?



A well developed, submitted and sanctified imagination can be shown eternal things of the Spirit that can then be released on the earth and shared - through a dance, a sculpture, a teaching, a business plan, a medical breakthrough, a new engineering method, etc.

When we practice, we mature in this ability and are more able to reach deeper into the storehouses of heaven for our creativity on earth.

When Laban tried to con Jacob out of taking flocks as part of his reward for many years of hard work, Jacob used a visual aid to connect his imagination to heaven, and a supernatural outcome ensued (Genesis 30:37=39).

Biblical characters frequently saw into the realm of the Spirit – for example Daniel and John in Revelation.

Jesus spoke with stories. There were no films or printing presses in His lifetime, so media as we know it would not have existed. Stories are altogether different from preaching a sermon – they require us to engage our imagination. We cannot help but do so; as we depict scenes and characters in our mind’s eye, we sense emotions through the weaving narrative threads.

Jesus taught us how to engage our God-given imagination and bring visual life to the Word of God; it is another vital and God-given tool for our use, and an inseparable component of creativity.

## IMPARTATION

**Impartation is the transference of spiritual things from one person to another.** It means to make known, to tell, to relate, disclose, communicate, to impart knowledge. So we can impart or give away what has been given to us in different ways in a spiritual transaction.

The Apostle Paul wrote of wanting to visit his friends so he could ‘impart some spiritual grace to them’ (Romans 1:11), or release blessing or gifts through laying hands on them.

## RELEASE

We sometimes presume this is only for inside the church, but Jesus went out and laid hands on the sick, calmed the storm and converted water into wine. Therefore, just as Paul transferred spiritual anointing through handkerchiefs (Acts 19:11-12), we are able to impart what we hold into the creative works we form, in alliance with the Spirit, effecting change in a person or environment through grace.

**Testimony is a great example of this.** It is an impartation through words, or the telling of a story that can transfer power for hope and faith for change and healing.

At times people have been healed while listening to a testimony.

Paintings that are intentionally created to release healing can do so. Dance that deliberately moves to change an environment to one of faith can do so.

We can affect the spiritual environment around us individually and collectively.

Realizing what we carry within us is the key to imparting it

All of Romans 5 is the revelation of our freedom obtained through the death of Jesus, but also the resulting realization that His Spirit lives within us and has released us from death to life. We must develop creativity that releases the true life of who Jesus is. He is the person of the Godhead who helps us come to the Father, and so our innovation must reflect that dynamic.

So how do we do that?

We attract the anointing of God by steeping our heart and spiritual eyes in the Word, by spending time with God in adoration and search, allowing the Spirit to lead us. From this place we discover innovation and metamorphosis, and we release prophetic creativity through any area of life or gift as we are directed; then we impart that to others.

**Prophecy declares; it changes and releases something of the ways of God on the earth.**

As the pride and idols of man fail, the Spirit of a loving God rises, and those who know Him can engage with abundant possibilities to convey the message of Christ.

## SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERES

As we become more aware of what we can carry and dispel, we can affect the spiritual climate around us, rather than let it affect us. We carry the Holy Spirit and also the gifts and anointing He has given us. We can learn to affect specific settings in specific ways as directed by God.

Dawna DeSilva, the founder of the Bethel Sozo healing ministry<sup>3</sup> has written some excellent teaching on this subject from her experiences. She discusses how we can enter an environment and become affected by the spiritual atmosphere there without realizing it.

Atmosphere Design is the intentional release of creative works within a space as the Holy Spirit directs, for a specific purpose.

Consider again that the arts of the Spirit are meant to intertwine with the Body of Christ and help to stir the creative DNA for the benefit of all.

**Artisans could be inspired into making a much greater impact.**

For example, they could assist believers who work in secular environments, helping to change the spiritual temperature. Believers working in the mountains of culture will be able to release new ideas and answers that also bring a higher spiritual dynamic where they are positioned, as they rise to grasp their own creative DNA.

Do our church environments portray the nature of God?

When we walk outside into a beautiful garden bathed in sunlight, we find it full of different flowers and plants. A multitude of colours and light play-dance in brightening hues; there is texture, form and smell, and such a sense of emancipation we want to take off our shoes and run barefoot on the grass, or linger in peaceful rest to absorb the delicious environment.

## RELEASE

Little kids adore such a garden; the first thing they want to do is play and laugh their heads off. The presence of God is so like being in the garden; its phenomenal life-force leaves us in wonder at times, and worry dissolves in seconds as we slip off our shoes and rustle barefoot through His garden.

If this is the essence of His presence, let us consider that our faith communities could more closely reflect this type of lively, colourful environment; they could encourage greater freedom of expression, so that we can express ourselves in creative worship and wonder.

**We do not need to attack the past to embrace the future, but if we do not at least consider the need for change, we will not achieve it; the seasons of God will shift around us and we will feel the void with increasing certainty.**

## UNITY

When Moses and Bezalel teamed up to undertake the construction of the tabernacle, all the people of Israel were asked if they would bring a contribution, but only from a willing heart. Such was their generosity of spirit that they brought too much! This powerful act of unity under-girded the project and blessed its outcome.

There is always power in unity. As we pray for the renaissance of creativity, others in our communities and groups will start to apprehend what God is doing and champion the vision with time and patronage.

A network of believers is already appearing

God blessed his people greatly with His presence and leading when they supported His vision for the tabernacle. He will do the same with those who would support this restoration.

**Exodus 36:2-7** *Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work. And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, and they spoke to Moses, saying, 'The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do.' So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, 'Let neither man nor*

*woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.' And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done – indeed too much.*

## ENCOURAGEMENT

As people of common vision gather, they can pray for and inspire one another to keep going, developing ideas and networks. A collective purpose builds backbone.

## BREAK THE MOLD

Another key to clearing the blockages to creativity is to position ourselves for something new and be open to a wholly fresh approach.

If we keep repeating the same patterns we will get the same results. 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us there are things to discover that we have not yet seen or heard but that God has banked up, ready to show His people.

**1 Corinthians 2:9** *But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'*

Sometimes the simplicity of changing the natural helps to change the spiritual - a different environment, mixing with new people, even just a new route to work can be sown as faith for new direction.

We are creatures of habit, and sometimes just breaking out of the repetitive grooves that take our lives round in familiar cycles can set us on new paths that cultivate expectation

## RELEASE

**Changing a habit allows God to speak to us in new ways.** It refreshes life and breaks off dry repetition and weariness. The process takes some courage, trust and willingness to accept change when it comes, but it could open a pivotal moment for you.

## PRACTICE PRESENCE

Practicing communion with God leads us to learn how to invite His presence, but then we need to learn how to receive it and treat it with the utmost esteem. **He is always with us, and the sweet sense of His presence is tangible and glorious; but we must understand how to host it, so it remains and intensifies.**

If we practice this in our private times with God and in corporate times of worship, prayer and mission, it will increase. When the Spirit starts to rain down, we can ask how our participation can fulfill His objective.

Sometimes the answer is simply worship or intercession. At other times there is a prophetic mandate.

Each soaking is for a different purpose; sometimes it is to bring healing or strength, but always it seems to include the purpose of pouring lavish love in reciprocating action.

Artisans must also discover how their creative works practiced within worship and presence can contribute to what God is doing in such times.

In the age ahead, learning to host and work with the presence of God is imperative for us all.

The Holy Spirit is a teacher who loves to answer questions, so we can learn on the job as well as in the prayer closet.

Let's ask Him to teach us

## HANDS

What skills do you have in your hands already that you can combine with the rest of 'the combination'?

Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Existing skill/ability + More skill/ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

Understanding and working through this process will lead to new direction and blueprints.

Once the patterns start to appear, we combine them with the rest of 'the combination', praying for the interaction of the Spirit and asking for acceleration and multiplication.

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU HAVE

If you understand what God has given you, what gifts, what strength and what areas of the five-fold ministry you are best equipped with, you will be a lot more effective and the process will be a great deal more enjoyable!

Do not be put off by tests of faithfulness. As we determine to move onwards and upwards, like Daniel and Joseph, we will be tested for promotion.

Do not be surprised and do not give up!

**Some are called to influence kings and queens (men and women of influence and power).** If that is you, then who are the kings and queens in your sphere of influence? Pray that God will give them dreams and spiritual experiences that you can interpret. Pray for plans and concepts that will be exactly what they need. Ask for the divine circumstances required for you to demonstrate what God's Kingdom looks like right in the middle of culture.

## HOUSE OF PRAYER

There are many types of intercessor.

We may all do it a little differently; some people are called to be intercessors, because they love to pray - it is not that hard for them to remember to pray for people, details and situations continuously.

Some love a quiet room, some love to walk outside, some love music playing; but we should allow ourselves creative freedom in this department too and not dictate what it should look like for all of us.

However we pray, we need to pray this shift into place, to pray for our churches and lives to be filled with freshly inspired originality.

Prayer and worship should be at the core of this move.

**It is also necessary for the arts themselves to be restored as a vehicle for intercession.** This will help us to remove constricting boundaries and enable many to enjoy prayer with fervor, through vehicles such as dance, art, poetry and prophetic music.

**David worshiped and prayed to God with wild, exuberant creative worship** (2 Samuel 6:14).

## THE CREATIVE PROCESS

Here is a practical guide to the creative process, drawn from an education in art and design, but fusing that with the examples of God's Word. If this method is unfamiliar to you, it can be used to engage your creative DNA and help you start to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we do not start because we do not understand the creative process. Or else we give up at a certain stage and assume failure, not understanding that we had genuinely reached a natural and essential stage that required pushing through. This will outline the process in its entirety for any gift, skill set, calling or work environment.

### STAGE 1: THE CREATIVE SPACE

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

**Genesis 1:1** (The Message) *First this: God created the Heavens and Earth - all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness.*



God moves out and gets creative; He has a new project in sight and He lays out the blank canvas before Him. First, we need to get 'in the zone' to embark on a new project, and collect the materials we need at the inspirational stage. This may include art equipment, setting up new systems on our computers, making space in our calendars, etc. We might be hoping for a new medical solution, poetry, a new teaching series, a book, a painting or new strategy for business. At this stage we know we want to get creative with the Spirit, but we cannot yet see the outcome; so we prepare in faith and pray for divine inspiration and wisdom.

## **STAGE 2: AN ATMOSPHERE OF CREATIVITY**

**Genesis 1: 2** *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

God was brooding and percolating over His creative project. This stage usually begins with a sense of lacking direction. You are ready for action, but ideas are vague and formless; you have questions and cannot see the finished outcome. This stage is the beginning of the creative process, and is perfectly normal. Position yourself to receive and expand your thinking on what God can give you. If we just expect more of the same, then perhaps that is what we will receive. But if we expect something else, where are the limits of the Spirit? This is not the time to give up if you do not receive a blinding flash of inspiration that delivers the whole project on a plate. This is where you start to dig and explore, collecting fragments of the picture. If we do not understand the process, we can expect the entire picture in one bite - when it doesn't come, we think we have missed it.

Time spent seeking God's direction will yield gravitation towards things that inspire and catch our attention; these can be written, visual or aural. He comes to meet us in this moment, because we have stepped towards Him and moved in expectation and faith. We are finally saying to Him that we cannot create apart from Him. We recognize our need to allow the Spirit's teaching and instruction through the process. We humble ourselves, submitting gifts and goals. Now we ask, wait and seek for inspiration and assignment.

Start to gather the fragments that appear. They may come through pictures or words from God, scriptures, conversations, experiences, dreams, visions, or through being prompted by the Spirit to do some research for more information and comprehension of a subject matter. Once we start to work with the Spirit to glean inspiration for a certain focus, He can speak to us through anything, even through the actions of the family dog! God loves relationship and conversation. Open your eyes and ears to a wealth of possible communications to help you; catch the pieces and bring them together.

Artistic people are accustomed to this stage and its productivity. Dancers start to experiment with moves and music, musicians begin to experiment with notes, sounds and combinations. Designers will construct various boards to explore amalgamations of mood, colour and concept, and pin them up on the walls in

## RELEASE

their creative space. The same principles apply to anyone: gather the things around you that inspire, gather the communications of God and the results of directional prompts, and a spiritual concept board will begin to emerge. Sometimes God shows us new combinations of the familiar, or He can give us completely new thought processes to investigate. Sometimes He outlines the skills, gifts and resources we already possess and how they could be used with fresh dynamic; a bit like painting fabulous colour in a room that felt tired: new vigor is breathed and felt.

### STAGE 3

**Genesis 1:3-4** *Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.*

At this stage there is increased clarity and revelation. In your collection of leads, research and fragments, you start to see patterns forming: combinations that work well, or the direction of a message. Continue to bring the parts together with intention, looking for connection and orientation. Too many of us have lots of fragments from God, scattered and seemingly random; but until we bring them all together, we cannot see the synergy between them. As we fit one piece with another, something magical happens and they spark fire and ideas; direction grows stronger. At this stage, let the Holy Spirit surprise and delight you with new revelation for solutions, creativity and strategy.

### STAGE 4

**Genesis 2:1** *Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.*

In this stage the ideas are coming together: the canvas is taking shape, the dance is forming, new business solutions and programs are binding to take shape. Now keep working and pressing in until you finish the project or complete the outcome, arriving at the intended goal with God's help. God brought all the parts together and worked at the Creation until He was finished. This process can even be used in discovering your calling, gifts or life-direction.

## REVIVAL IS MESSY

Leaders who are willing to let this restoration take place in church communities and ministries will need to be prepared to let people start to explore, bearing in mind that it may look more like the nursery to begin with.

## LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

It has been said that revival is messy; it is not neat, orderly or controlled, but it is usually wild and a little chaotic. As God begins to move through the new creativity and wisdom that is coming, then it is best to be open to the radical and the power-filled.

Charles Finney (1792-1875) preached outside the church to working men, and multitudes were saved because he swam against the direction of the norm. What he did was completely revolutionary and contrary to the church culture in that day, but look at the outcome.

God will use the innovation of His nature as part of revival because it cannot be pinned under man's government and control. He is longing for places to break free.

## THE IMPOSSIBLE

We always look at what we have already, and struggle to engage with what we consider impossible.

Perhaps we cannot imagine Christian art and creativity to be any different from what they are now.

**He is the God of the impossible.**

How could a painting help to heal a broken life? How can a dance bring transformation? Yet these things are already happening. What if a sculpture could help to change the hearts of people in positions of great authority because it carried an anointing so impacting that words were hardly needed? What if believers were the very people to find many ground-breaking medical solutions?



# POSITIONING

In this section we will look at the Mountain of the Arts and Entertainment and the characteristics of the people needed to bring Kingdom change there. This mountain affects all our lives in numerous ways.

As a Church, we can greatly help the revival of God's creativity by recognizing that His artisans also play a very significance role in the process

## CREATIVE WARRIORS

*'Art is a basic form of prophecy and worship, and there is a beauty and anointing about to come upon a host of holy artists whose prophetic art will burn away the fog that is now over it, just like the sun burns away the fog in the morning. Artists who worship the one true God, who keep their souls purified by the singleness of purpose to glorify the Lord, will be given a greater power. They will become like prisms that refract the light of heaven and give colour and meaning to the world. As deep as art has plummeted into darkness, the light that is coming will be even greater. Beauty, meaning, and the elevation of all that is good will soon be seen in an extraordinary army of artists. This is the time when everything that has been sown in man, the good and the evil, the light and the darkness, will come to full maturity. The light that is about to be released through the arts will be unprecedented. God will not force people, but He will give them an opportunity to see His light. It is not our job to make men see the light or want the light, but it is our job simply to walk in the light and reveal it.'* Excerpts from the Morning Star Bulletin<sup>1</sup>

There is a definite call and directive for the artisans of God; the prophetic people who have felt the need to spend time and personal resource studying, practicing and evolving areas of creative gifting. This is a different mandate from the general release of creative DNA.

## CAUGHT BETWEEN

At present, many believers who have felt that their life-commission involved specializing in artistic disciplines are stuck between two worlds. They have often trained within world systems to gain technical skill, which holds great merit, but then they have also been taught the philosophy of the arts from the world viewpoint. This creates a framework that is not Kingdom, and encourages artisans to draw from a variety of wells and sources, to build personal stages and to seek man's approval for validation.

**We are supposed to flow from the life of the church out onto the mission field;** sadly, however, because it is not developed extensively within a Kingdom setting very often, the mission field is also missing a great wealth of creative input from Christians.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

To begin change, we must first discern the road  
we are to follow

Are we to develop our artistic gifts at a higher level as artisans for specific purpose, or are we to use the general creative DNA available to all God's people for another focus, such as teaching or youth work?

Once we see who we are designed to be, we can cast off the shroud of rejection and forge ahead as pioneers ourselves, or join with those who have that calling.

**The artisans are gifted to serve within many diverse areas for the Kingdom of God, and we will examine some of these within this section.**

## PRIESTLY ANOINTING

There is a role for the artisans to stir the spiritual environment, with sound and anointed art forms that offer prayer, worship and prophecy, like the artisans who formed the tabernacle of Moses

**Exodus 31:1-5** (NIV) *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 'See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.'*

The temple was filled with art forms, gold, fine linens, embroidery, jewels and objects of great value, as we looked at in an earlier chapter. Even the priests who were separated to serve the Lord were to be adorned in symbolic holy garments.

**Exodus 28:1-4** *Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skilfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.*

**The garments were to be 'holy' or set apart for God, but they were also designed at His request for 'beauty'.** Here, we find again that beauty holds considerable significance for God, not just to delight the eyes but to serve a spiritual purpose.

The garments were to be woven together in beautiful threads and 'artistically worked' (Exodus 28:6). There were different parts to the costume, with engraved precious stones such as sardis, topaz, emerald, sapphire, diamonds and more.

**In fact, the whole setting of the temple, along with the robes of the priests, was a feat of allegorical beauty, craftsmanship and artistic excellence.**

## BEAUTY

Looking back into history, we can see that before the reformation the church did champion the arts of the day; and great artisans like Michelangelo were used to demonstrate the character and beauty of God. Immense cathedrals and buildings of holy awe were constructed.

We can certainly learn from and respect the changing seasons of history, but the development of the arts within the church has been very slow since those days. Hundreds of years ago it flourished and led the way in culture, greatly influencing it for God's Kingdom.

Jesus did not oppose a creative life-style. What He did oppose was art and creativity being used in the wrong spirit: to build great temples of man's religion, to take from the poor to fund extensive projects for the wealthy in the name of God. He opposed people placing their faith in great structures, as if they could earn some merit of God's approval and bargain for His love.

When He came to the earth, He came to facilitate a shift so that man could live in personal, close connection with the Father without the mediation of a prophet or priest.

Despite this transition, it is true that, at times in church history, the emphasis has still been placed on building great structures for the wrong reasons (for example religiosity); quite rightly, the Reformation revolted against that.

From the excesses to the purification and diminishing of creativity in the church, God wants to restore a new balance and bestow fresh innovation through His people, for the central purpose of demonstrating His wonderfully manifold creative nature. In turn, we can use this fresh creativity to increase worship which will then take us deeper in to cycles of further divine release.

Where ingenuity and artistry are ignited, they can be used to go and reach the mountains of culture

The aim is for artistic forms to carry the presence and anointing of God so they can bless the church, but also be used to flow outwards to a world where people are desperate for an encounter with the living God, like the woman at the well (John 4:1–42).

## POSITIONING

There is a role for artisans who are pure in heart and who are called to create works that carry holiness (this includes all the areas of the arts: dance, poetry, painting, film, etc.). There is a commission for them to release prophecy and bring edification and declaration.

This is about working with the other areas of the five-fold ministry within teams and communities.

There is no room for personal agendas or stages

## MUSIC

We have taken verses like this glorious account in Chronicles to see that music certainly has a part to play in leading God's people into worship in the church:

**2 Chronicles 5:11-14** *And it came to pass when the priests came out of the most Holy Place and the Levites who were singers stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets- indeed it came to pass, when the trumpets and the singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord saying; for He is good, for His mercy endures forever, that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.*

However, we usually stop there – forgetting that the tabernacle was also full of all sorts of creativity and craftsmanship that were considered equally holy.

Music is indeed a wonderful way to invite the presence of God and for His people to bring worship and focus on Him.

There is a mandate for this area too, not just to continue existing but to come higher.

Creativity means to produce something new or a new combination of factors, so in order to lead other people into a place of worship creatively, musicians need to wait on God and seek anointing through relationship with Him in order to inspire others to a heavenly focus. This goes beyond the simple execution of good skill.



**If prophetic art works are to be crafted through training and a heavy reliance on the Spirit's input, then the same should apply to music.**

Worship leaders who know how to swim deeply in the presence of God and take others with them with anointing and skill have paid a cost. Their lives have allowed character to be sculpted, they have taken narrow roads and many risks, and have sold out for a God full of mysteries; they have found treasure, and you can hear it in their music when they play.

Music has had center-stage for worship in the church for a long time, with only a little input from the other areas of artistry

As musicians embrace the missing areas and artisans and are willing to humbly explore new concepts in unity of vision and friendship, a new power-house of God's Spirit will be released in the Body of Christ.

**We must aim for distinction and lay down our arms of competition and territory.**

## INTERCESSION

**Another role for the artisan is intercession.** We are familiar with the use of music for prayer and worship (Joshua 6:1-6), but it is perhaps a leap for some of us to think of using art as a valid form of prayer beyond words.

**But words are certainly not the only thing God has given us to pray with,** and artistic people often find themselves frustrated by the limitation of words alone; they long to make something, or move.

There are certainly some believers using art as intercession already, but this could be developed within the wider church.

## POSITIONING

**Some creative works could be taken into the mountains of culture because of the weight of intercession and anointing that rests on them** – works made in prayer for specific schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, geographical areas or places of influence.

## THE MOUNTAIN OF THE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Many artisans have a call to the mountain of the arts in culture.

**If we are going to redeem our creative inheritance to gain Kingdom terrain within society, we need creative warriors with the right equipment who are ready to invade this mountain.**

It is difficult for people in our Church families to go and invade culture for God if they do not feel worth much in the Church family home; it leaves them vulnerable

The mountain of the arts and entertainment has towering impact on the cultures around us in the western world and beyond. To be able to bring change, we must first understand the mountain and how the enemy has used the talent within it to broadcast his message.

**There are two trees from which we can draw:** the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life. The tree of life is accessed through our spirit in connection to God's Spirit; it brings us revelation from Him.

God told us not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because it is accessed through the soul and also provides information sourced from the enemy.

**Genesis 2:16-17** *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'*

The entertainment industry often draws from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A tree's roots are wider than what is seen above the earth.

As people engage with certain films, books and computer games, they do not realize they are engaging with far-reaching roots into darkness, soul and deception. They do not see the cord pulling them into addictive pursuits that in turn cause their flesh to hunt for more; so they watch more evil and see, hear and absorb more darkness, because it anesthetizes the pangs of the flesh. It is a cyclical incarceration.

The antidote lies in holy, powerful creativity - untainted by worldly greed and the need for fame, not chained by the desperate human cry for affirmation; pure artistry that can only come from God

Part of the remedy is to make art forms that draw from the tree of life; and to carry this commission we need artisans who walk in great purity with an unshakable focus on God - the Bezalels and Josephs.

**The roots of the tree of life are also far-reaching; they run through the Word and the Spirit, into the fire and passion of God and access the heavenly realms.**

For this reason, artisans must become masterful at listening to God and learning His language, intensely dependent on the Spirit to collate works of influence and intercession.

Lance Wallnau teaches that the arts and entertainment mountain can release the glory of God more than any of the other mountains because it can capture things in music or in a visual state. Believers in this mountain are in gold-mine positions, but he also says that we are not teaching our people to be relevant in positions of influence in this mountain<sup>2</sup>

To better understand the mountain of the arts and entertainment, there are some main themes outlined below that dominate this area of culture at present and we will look at some of the ways in which they manifest in the world. Then we will look at a Kingdom perspective to show how we can counteract negative influences with Kingdom morality.

## POSITIONING

### THEMES OF DOMINANCE IN THE MOUNTAIN

#### **POWER & GREED**

**WORLD:** Power is a dominating theme in many of the arts. Physical beauty, intellect, money or physical strength are often used to achieve it. Power is used to control situations and outcomes, frequently with lawlessness. Sometimes that is shown to end badly, but equally the outcome is one of achieving success or vengeance. It is sometimes portrayed as the power of 'good' or man's power within himself, but rarely as God's power for a positive outcome.

**KINGDOM:** God is the highest power over all. Power can be transferred from God through us, as our lives are submitted to Him. There is no ladder-climbing in the Kingdom, no success of the flesh in its own strength; but as we humble ourselves, He will lift us up (James 4:10).

#### **FLESH**

**WORLD:** There is a huge increase in the acceptance of more explicit sexual material in the arts, but also anything of a sensual nature; whatever is pleasing to the flesh. Moral standards seem much lower than just ten or twenty years ago. The most common thread is the portrayal of women as sexual objects and adornment, devaluing them and setting standards for them that are based on outward appearance and sexual availability, rather than skill, intelligence or human value. Proverbs warns men of such snares and their road to death, yet many men and women are trapped by the sliding morals of the culture we live in.

**KINGDOM:** God values human life so much that He sent His only son to suffer and die for us, so that we could be saved and have a personal relationship with God as a greatly loved, protected and enjoyed child of the Father (John 3:16). This goes way beyond the exceptional kind of love we feel, even for our own children. Each one of us was redeemed at high cost. Forgiveness is extended to all of us as we come and bring our struggles to God and seek a holy life to guard us from the influences around us. God has made provision for the desires He gave us within the context of marriage, and the Bible gives us healthy guidelines for relationships of purity and unity.

#### **VIOLENCE & HATRED**

**WORLD:** We have seen an increase in violent content within the arts, promoted by technology. Although not wrong in itself, technology has made graphic dark and violent imagery more widely available, particularly to a younger age group. Gone are the seemingly innocent days of Pac-Man. The disconnection from real life can numb people to the real value of human life and the emotion behind acts of violence. There are

endless movies where many are murdered to achieve a goal - the glorification of power through hatred and destruction.

**KINGDOM:** Again, God values lives. In Kingdom we are taught to live in the power of the Spirit and that God will fight for us and with us. We are to put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17). Our fight is not against the flesh and blood of mankind, directing hatred and disdain towards people, but we fight against principalities and powers, rulers of wickedness in heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

### THE SUPERNATURAL

**WORLD:** The increasing hunger for all things supernatural and connected to a spiritual world beyond our natural world, combined with the advancement of computer graphics, has caused an explosion of film and TV programs about vampires, witches, supernatural settings and abilities. Harry Potter opened the floodgates to the popularity and acceptance of supernatural gifts and powers as cool and desirable.

However, the source of power in many of these programs is confusing. Sometimes it seems a mix of good and bad, but the lines of distinction have been blurred, leading to confusion in people as to the difference between God and the devil. There is a widespread deep deception that draws many into a fascination with the supernatural and leads them to develop an affinity with darkness unawares, without the discernment of dark from light. Thus doors are opened to many nefarious influences that ensnare people. This all seems to create, in some areas of the religious community, further suspicion of all things supernatural.

**KINGDOM:** In Joel 2:28 God said He would pour out His Spirit on ALL flesh in these times, that people would have dreams and see visions. The increase in hunger for all things other-worldly is in response to God pouring out His Spirit, waking people up to see that there is more than just the world of the five senses. The enemy seeks to take advantage of that, but ultimately God's people have the greater power in their hands.

God has equipped His church with many spiritual gifts and supernatural abilities, and He has called His people to heal and do miracles in His name. A life in God is full of the supernatural when we acknowledge it and work with it. Initially created by God, supernatural gifting is being counterfeited by the enemy, and it is time for the church to address the spiritual hunger out there with the tools we have already been given to do so.

A life in God is full of the supernatural when  
we acknowledge it and work with it

## POSITIONING

### LOVE

**WORLD:** The human need for love and acceptance is one of the most common themes, but apart from God it is mainly focused on romance and the hope that love from another human being will fill the void; which, of course, it does not. The focus is usually on the 'falling in love' and initial attraction stage, and rarely on the reality of relationship-longevity or mature love; this paints a very unrealistic picture. The shallow perceptions only teach people that attraction is love and that trying a string of relationships is normal.

**KINGDOM:** God is love (1 John 4:8) and, as our maker, He created us to need His love, to need the intimate connection with Him as a Father. When people do not know God closely (even Christians), they search for love in all the wrong places, trying to fill the void that only the immense love of God can fill. God's plan is marriage between one man and one woman as a partnership, bound together with God. When we are filled with His all-encompassing love for us, we can extend love to others: to a spouse, to family, to friends, to strangers even - because we give from that source and not our own strength.

### AREAS OF THE MOUNTAIN

Film, television and literature are all affected by the themes we've just looked at: power and greed, etc. They also quest to explore human life in all its complexities. Many times the story-line explores how humans deal with various challenges apart from God. However, the shift is coming in these areas, and already we see works from the mountain-tops that strongly reflect the message of hope and help: films like 'The Passion of the Christ'<sup>3</sup> and 'Les Miserables'.<sup>4</sup>

There are other areas of this mountain that deserve investigation, such as fashion, interior design and so on. We shall explore, in outline, some of these while recognizing that there are certainly more areas to be explored.

### FASHION

The western fashion industry, like many areas of art and design, is influenced from the top down. Styles and seasons are dictated by major designers, and lines and trends filter down to High Street level and mass production. At the top of the mountain there is huge pressure to perform, to remain in favor and success. The world behind the scenes can show little kindness as the fires of competition breed a hotbed of elitism. By the time styles proceed to production levels this becomes more diluted.

However the ethos from the high echelons of the fashion houses have carved the standards of appearance for generations, particularly for women. 'Very thin' has been the most desirable standard of beauty for decades, and statistics of anorexia and eating disorders have steadily risen, with women between the ages of 15 and 30 being the most affected.<sup>5</sup> But, beyond this, the majority of women and some men do not like their appearance, constantly finding fault with it because they will never measure up to the models in glossy magazines. Anorexia is very rare in developing countries like those in Africa, where it is not desirable to be thin. Mass-production of fashion-wear has also caused the exploitation and unjust treatment of labor in poor countries.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.  
Psalms 139:14 NIV

We are God's creative work, His sculpture; each one unique, individual. Contrary to what the world of fashion tells us, we are beautiful the way He made each one of us. It is our responsibility to steward well the body He gave us and care for our health, but we do not have to measure up to fashion-driven expectations. Jesus paid a supreme cost for us, and He wants us to celebrate and love the way that God made us and be free from the impossible measuring stick.

Freed from the negative aspects, fashion is a highly exciting area with massive scope for Kingdom influence and originality. The anointing was stored in the cloth of Peter's handkerchiefs, and when people touched them they were healed and delivered (Acts 19:12). Beautiful designs and fabrics made from God's blueprints could carry all sorts of anointing for specific purposes. Just as the garments for Aaron's priestly outfit were works of art, beautiful clothes could be designed and made by believers, without the constrictions of unsuitable worldly trends.

Clothing can be used to carry messages through visual imagery, words and logo, to display symbolic meaning through colour, pattern and shape; the scope is enormous. God also wants to give His people ingenuity and insight for the technical advance of the textiles themselves. Just as Lycra was a ground-breaking material, there are similarly extraordinary advances to come through cloth and fabric combinations.

## **INTERIOR DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE**

Interior design has not suffered the same decline, in terms of the look and focus of a product or interior; this can be refreshing. Some design houses have made increasingly progressive design available to the mass market.

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The downside is the focus on materialism: filling our houses with seemingly meaningless objects that we cannot afford and attempting to keep up with cultural standards. Mass-production has a positive aspect, in that it is accessible, but even that can impose great social cost, in terms of fewer small business opportunities and poor working conditions in impoverished countries where wages are very low. Materialism has also helped to create huge debt in western countries, and this is reaching crisis point.

**In the Church, architecture was once used as a significant vehicle to mark a standard**, like the high steeples of places of worship seen across communities and cities; some are still standing many hundreds of years later. These are examples of the most ornate and spectacular architecture in the world. Lack of resource and vision means the church rarely builds anything close to these masterpieces today.

In this area, there is the fascinating journey of  
'atmosphere design' awaiting us

God can give us plans for environments and objects, and help us execute the outcome. They will be designed for specific agendas and will help to invite and increase His presence and glory, to set a particular spiritual climate in that place for others to receive. Heaven is not limited to our perception of interior design and spaces; there are many inconceivable rooms in heaven full of the eternal. We can ask God to show us those rooms and grant us access to share in their bounty, and then release it on earth.

**John 14:2** *In My Father's house are many mansions*

**Our homes could radiate a spiritual atmosphere that influences people as they enter.** I have seen this happening many times now; art and atmosphere design that affects the spiritual climate, helping people to be more receptive to specific things from heaven. Remember that the tabernacle demonstrated to us the significance of atmosphere design. God loved to fill those spaces with His presence.

Equally, He has plans for new architectural projects that reflect His nature and sovereignty, that send messages to the world of who He is; in buildings created to fulfill all sorts of aspirations within the mountains of culture. He is just waiting for His architects to seek for them. I believe that, as we search the Spirit, we can design and co-create environments that greatly honor God. We do not worship the objects or buildings, but we can seek to make creative forms that lead people towards the message of God and cause them to ponder His ways, His beauty, His sovereignty and His salvation.



## **MUSIC**

Popular music seems to struggle with originality in this era. There was a definite sound to each of the last few decades, but this time-frame seems to carry a great deal of mishmash and repetition from the previous eras. As previously discussed, popular music videos contain a rather shocking slide of morality, and the devaluing of women.

There was a day when music videos were just stories to accompany good music; now they seem to prostitute souls. These images are commonplace and widely available to young eyes. Of course there are many genres of music, and each is open to the influences of world culture and its topics; but it comes back to which tree is the source, and that is usually apparent in the finished product.

Music is a beautiful gift given to us by God; it creates atmospheres, leads us into worship and fills up our senses. Just like all the other areas of the arts, new inspiration will fill this area when there are musicians willing to seek and stretch. There is also much interplay to be explored between music and the other areas of the arts, to produce new combinations from a place of unity.

## **DANCE AND MOVEMENT**

Within dance, the more classical forms seem to be affected less by carnal or shadowy themes. However, ferocious competition leads to the pursuit of worldly excellence, which in turn can result in struggle with perfectionism and striving. Although beautiful art can be produced through much training and effort, we have to remember the difference between the excellence of the world and the excellence of the Kingdom. God does not want us to shy from hard work, but striving in our own strength for our own stage can kill; and many have fallen.

Contemporary street dance is one area that is seeing exciting art forms, capturing the imagination of youth. It is highly creative and intended to express the movement of heaven. Unfettered within the church, there is so much ethereal beauty and power that is yet to be expressed through this medium that will carry the supernatural forces of heaven.

## **LITERATURE**

As with all the other areas, the common and dominant influences weave their way through the volumes of literature available, from newspapers to novels, with the outcomes already discussed. Kingdom progress

## POSITIONING

finds exhilarating new vehicles such as slam poetry being used to proclaim gritty messages and prophecy. As we increasingly learn to interplay the various creative forms, writing and poetry could be used to engage in original ways.

The incorporation of words into other works of art such as paintings and sculpture is not new, but it could be significantly developed

With the wealth of penmanship available to us from the Word, the exploration of this area will continue

Thankfully, like music, this area has not suffered a dearth of encouragement or volume within the church. An almost overwhelming multitude of Christian resources is widely available, with its span greatly increased through the internet. Advancement would see literature written for the mountains of culture – works full of Kingdom values and message – yet cleverly non-religious in language and approach. Such modern parables could intertwine hope for the hopeless through their tales and draw the starving to Jesus, while at the same time cutting through the guarded apprehensions people have towards religiosity. One such example is ‘The Shack’ by William P. Young.

## ADVERTISING

Advertising itself is a powerful medium. It can sell for good or bad, it can alert us to things that are advantageous, and it can sell us false truths and tempt us with products we do not need. Explosive volumes of advertising (together with television programs selling people a life of happiness through materialism, life style and beautiful bodies) have led many to submerge in the grim mire of deep debt. The lure of the quick fix with little forethought has contributed substantially to the crashing economy of many nations today.

The skills of excellent advertising can also help to send emphatic messages for such topics as justice and the fight against poverty. Kingdom skills can be used to develop advertising for righteousness, finding favor through prayer, and for the market opportunities that will be needed.

God can bring revelation that helps His people to see things ahead of time so they have insight into what people will require and respond to; this, in turn, will give them breakthrough campaigns. The focus, as in all the other areas, should be on the Father and not about acclaim. He wants to produce ideas that will bring a very different result to the current outcomes of man's campaigns.

### **INVENTION AND PRODUCT DESIGN**

This has become a huge industry; there are products and gizmos for everything, as invention becomes more accessible. There are many positive sides to increased invention. It has helped to fuel mass-production, and we have already highlighted the pros and cons of this. Object and product design reaches into every area of life, from the decorative to the highly practical – and even life-saving. God has many divine inventions to deposit within His people as we seek Him for the revelation of what is needed and what will bring breakthrough solutions to difficult problems.

### **FINE ART**

We have already discussed this area in some detail with respect to wells, sources and outcomes, and we have discussed exceptional skill without Spirit. This is one area within the church that needs revival, having long been diminished and misunderstood. Talented believers hold within themselves stunning ideas and joyful artistry, when given the opportunity to release it. At a higher level of skill on the spectrum, there is much to paint, draw and sculpt to unleash intercession, message and prophecy.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

This is an area that has actually developed considerably with the aid of technology. Many have portrayed the utterly spectacular Creation and the 'works of His hands' with delightful sensitivity (Psalms 92:4).

Photography has often captured supernatural activity in Christian meetings that has not been seen by the naked eye.

## POSITIONING

### EXERCISE: IMPACTING CULTURE

**GROUP:** In a group of 3 or 4 people (preferably people you don't know well):

Prophesy over each other (5 minutes per person).

Take it turns to be the focus person the others prophesy to.

Take it in turns to write the words down for each other.

What revelation is God bringing about each person's calling and ability to impact certain mountains of culture?

(Keep the words focused on exhortation and encouragement)

**INDIVIDUAL:** Listen to what God is saying to you and write it down.

### HOW DO WE REACH THE MOUNTAIN OF THE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT?

Over the coming years, there is still much shaking of world systems to take place. As eternal wisdom is released over the same years, we can use it to influence the mountains with tidings of hope, healing, solution, power, miracles and, ultimately, salvation in God.

**Every single age group and people type is greatly affected by the mountain of the arts and entertainment, so how do we bring change?**

The previous section 'Areas of the Mountain' begins to bring understanding of what is actually at work in this area of society on a global scale. This vast arena covers many niches, so I have generalized in order to highlight central themes and bring a foundational understanding of the wheels at work.

## MOVING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT

To make considerable progress in this arena, creative people must carry Kingdom traits that bring the opposite spirit to the principalities and powers that rule over this mountain at present

One of the main ways we can counteract the darkness is to demonstrate the love of God by showing people they are valuable.

**Jesus paid the highest cost for the lives of all men, women and children, and the message of God's supreme love can break the low self-esteem nurtured in this mountain.**

A lack of purity and holiness is rife, which encourages the opposite ethos of promiscuity to seem like freedom; but this is the very road that robs people of their value.

The works and lives of God's people, commissioned to this mountain, should be ones of sustained purity and holiness.  
We are to be in the world but not of the world  
(John 17:14-18)

**John 17:14-18** *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.*

We are to know our value and the great price that has been paid for our lives. So we do not need to be entangled by what other people are doing, but nor do we judge them.

## POSITIONING

### JOSEPHS

**Many Kingdom creatives who are called to this mountain are being chiseled in secret to prepare a Joseph-type character and faithfulness within them.**

The lure of worldly success and fame becomes dull to the submitted, sculpted heart; distractions and temptations are minimized in the chiseling process.

The first call already resonates in the ears of some creative warriors who are willing and ready to go. Timing means that these first ranks may have to pioneer the roads, sharing what they learn enroute.

### UNTAINTED

Change will also come through creative works that are conceived through an exceptional heart; some are simple in form, others are highly accomplished and complex – untainted art forms that carry the power to break off evil with hallowed purity.

**Jesus carried a purity that defeated darkness, to show us it was wholly possible.** His tactics were humility and the avoidance of goals such as self-gain or the riches and power of this world. He did not ever use the gifts of God as a vehicle for self-glory and He refused to come under the influences around Him. He taught the people the character of God through love, and displayed the power and sovereignty of God through supernatural signs and wonders.

**Creative warriors need to carry the principles of identity, value, character, obedience, faithfulness and perseverance.**

When God gives us wisdom, skill and great gifts for a certain charge, we should pay even more attention to our character and obedience, to keep us from falling and failing

The greater the gift, the greater the responsibility.

## PURPOSE

**Distinguishing our purpose will set our feet on the path of clarity where focus and detail will be sharpened. If we are unsure of where we are headed, we will wander aimlessly and passion will decline.**

Being creative for the sake of being creative is not enough; but even the smallest glimpse of a vision can show us the way ahead, even if that is just one step at a time.

What land is the Lord calling you to influence?

What area of the mountains is He asking you to reach?

What are the gifts and skills you have in your hand already?

Your training and experience may presently seem limited to your current sphere of influence, but when we present all that we have to the King, He adds to it, and we find ourselves involved in releasing much greater things than our box determines. Even if that box had been hugely successful in worldly terms, it cannot compare to being part of God's eternal plans.

The perspective of the divine is always to come higher and not settle for the smallness of short-lived worldly accomplishment

In his loss of eternal perspective, Solomon wrote 'There is nothing new under the sun' (Ecclesiastes 1:9); and when we draw from the wells that are earthly and temporal, we will eventually find the same disillusionment as he did (Jeremiah 2:13).

**If we draw from the everlasting well, our bucket finds the effervescence of the waters of life, which can flow through our creative works and out towards others.**

There are many valid assignments for the creative people. Some of us are called to be pioneers - ground-breakers and road-builders. Some are called to help establish settlements and develop them.

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There are worshipers who have priestly anointing to help the church dive into the deep waters of the Spirit; there are intercessors who realize prayer through multimedia; there are creative teachers with fresh revelatory messages; there are those called to bring the voice of justice in the struggle against poverty; there are prophets who declare messages inside and outside the Church through art forms; and there are healers who demonstrate the power of God.

**There will be apostles to the mountain of the arts and entertainment, and there will be apostles who bring the specific areas of creativity into arenas of culture and the Church, to oversee and help release it on a wider scale.**

There are artisans called to the film industry and television, there are those called to write books, to dance and to produce major works of art that are not even labeled Christian or aimed at the Christian market. Their purpose is to take Kingdom ground in culture, and fill environments with His glory.

There are so many categories to be considered,  
that resources are needed to help define the  
areas where the Lord will bring creative restoration

In the day of beginnings, we can ask the Lord to show us what we already possess, then ask where is He directing us to use it.

A time is needed of pioneers and courage – there will be unprecedented favor for those who are willing to be prepared and sent.

## TEAM WORK

**One of the strongholds in the arts is individualism.**

We are encouraged to advance our own kingdom, as it were. We are trained to find our own stage and hold on to it. Self-reliance is encouraged instead of dependence on God; trust in one's own gift and strength to make things happen.



**We move in the opposite spirit by fulfilling the first commandment:**

**Matthew 22:37-38** *Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind'. This is the first and great commandment.*

Other people are seen as competition; thus jealousy, strife and hatred are rife in this mountain.

We move in the opposite spirit by fulfilling the second greatest commandment:

**Matthew 22:39** *And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'*

The army of God's creative warriors will have to fight as one, preferring one another, lifting others up higher, training and mentoring the next generation

**There is no room for individualism and performance.**

We must guard against a territorial spirit, where we want to hang on to every sliver of ground and recognition for our area of creativity and our own gifts.

Working faithfully with what we have been given, and dropping the diva attitude to think like a team player, will multiply our gifts so they can serve in the army for eternal purpose. This is a crucial key to purifying the creativity in God's people, readying us for work in the mountains.

**Iron sharpens iron, and teams gather strength.** Many times a little conflict within teams is used by God to sculpt character; so it becomes a guardian for the gifting in ourselves and others, steering those gifts towards safe borders.

**Teams are not designed to stifle uniqueness.** We can often soar at far higher levels of ability and anointing when we play a team sport. It helps to keep our lens focused on the heavenly agenda and alert to the journey of our team-mates and not just our own.

## POSITIONING

**As we extend our own strength outwards for the good of the whole, we find an incomparable infilling awaits us.**

Accountability to others prevents us falling into the unmarked graves of deception. It can catch us at the point of stumbling and alert us to the loose branches concealing the deathly pit below.

Lone rangers can be easily deluded within their own universe and are prone to the puncture wounds of pride.

**Companions on the journey shake our tight perspectives loose from their provincial holds. In short, teams kill individualism.**

The Word shepherds us to submit to trusted leadership, to preserve and bring wise council on the road to being a friend of God. Your leaders are commissioned by God to keep watch over your soul (Hebrews 13:17).

## COMPETITION AND EXCELLENCE

**In a society fueled by individualism and performance, we have learned the art of constant comparison.** Either we come off worst and feel inferior, or we feel superior when others fall short of our prowess; neither brings life to us.

The Master Craftsman seems to have an aversion to the conveyor belts of mass-production when forming His own Creation.

Our greatest healing is to be found among the waves of God's unconditional love - the layers of learning our uniqueness as His personal art works. These disentangle us from failure and the deathly standards of the world. Over time these truths galvanize us with the strength that stands guard, alert to the enemy's schemes and put-downs.

When we focus outwards on the greater purpose and team unity, the temptation to compare is stifled. When we see our moving part in the Body of Christ and our credible contribution, we do not have to be afraid of

what we lack; we can celebrate the contributions of others, because the suffocating bonds of competition have been extracted and we are free to compose together.

## STRATEGY

Teams require certainty of vision and strategy

We can only go where God is giving us latitude

**Heaven must carve the location of our calling into the mountains.**

Then we need intelligence as to the spiritual dynamics at work within that sphere, and a plan of action to move in the opposite spirit.

What are the details of strategy?

Where will God give us authority and favor to advance?

What does the task force need to carry with it to break strongholds of influence?

**We absolutely need God-ideas not just good ideas.**

Many good ideas have made little difference even if they were carried out by well-meaning Godly people.

## WEAPONS

**It is a real leap for some of us to see that the instrument of creativity we hold in our hand is a spiritual weapon, just like a sword; but when we really understand the creativity of God, this will not be such a jump.**

## POSITIONING

Earlier we looked at the passage in Zechariah 1:18–21, where Zechariah was given a vision of four horns representing four demonic strongholds that will rise to crush the nations. God’s chosen method of reciprocating assault is to send four ‘craftsmen’. This correlates with the title God gives to His limitless wisdom: He calls it a ‘master craftsman’ (Proverbs 8).

**Both wisdom and creativity are parts of God’s core nature; fused in purpose, they form a very powerful weapon, powerful enough to oppose strongholds over nations.**

It shows us that through ‘the combination’, it is possible for man to become a force to be reckoned with: Blueprints + Spirit + Wisdom + Creativity + Existing skill/ability + More skill/ability added by God, joined with Character, Obedience and Perseverance

**Combining these factors, we can become intimidating warriors against the enemy’s camp.**

How we carry out that warfare and redeem Kingdom terrain can look like a whole spectrum of creative activity.

Some surprising things may be asked of us on this expedition. How can painting a picture or designing a building be warfare? But if we consider impartation and that what we carry can be dispersed into an atmosphere for divine effect, we start to change our perspective.

**Obedience and trust lead to prize and presence.**

Victorious personal chapters in our own story with God can landscape the future.

Listening and learning, trying and transforming, we are called to walk journeys of unique experience and not of production-line practices.

If this is to be a journey to unleash our creative DNA,  
then by its very definition it will be creative and full  
of unique requests and commissions from God

## LIMITLESS: A COURSE IN CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE

Consider that the armory in heaven is stacked with paint, books with blank pages, computer programs waiting to be written or music sheets waiting for notes.

Ask the Lord to enlighten you as to the weapons you already hold and to reveal the ones awaiting your collection.

There is much to fight for: the advancement of justice, love, kindness, goodness and mercy, and the healing and salvation of souls.

Warriors in this day do not stand alone, but are flanked by the heavenly host; it is essential that we awake to their connective mandate so that the earthly and heavenly armies work in unity

Elisha was not deterred as he stood before a great destructive earthly force. He could see a greater angelic army poised to destroy its intentions. The enemy of Elisha was blinded by supernatural forces and taken prisoner (2 Kings 6:8–23).

**2 Kings 6:17-18** *And Elisha prayed, and said, 'Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, 'Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.' And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.*

## BUILDING A POWERFUL ARMY

God is going after performance, split motives, dirty vessels and egos. If we are to advance to the caliber of creative warriors, then we must allow the time of preparation or we will always struggle within our personal limitations.

## POSITIONING

### DEFINE THE LAYERS - ADVANCING SKILLS

A bracingly realistic stock-take is needed.

There has to be definition if we are going to reach the mountains of culture and serve effectively in the church.

We must make an honest inventory of our skills and their level. The solution is to raise the standard and clearly define the layers

**The following is a suggested overview of what the layers look like:**

**LAYER 1:** There is the general release of the creative DNA for every one of God's people; this can be expressed, celebrated and developed from any level of skill. This layer is the very beginning of the journey for people trying new skills, waking up their creative DNA.

**LAYER 2:** People training, practicing and seeking to develop in specific areas of creative skill.

**LAYER 3:** People beginning to emerge with more confidence and individual style in a given area or multiple areas of creativity, but still aware of the need to practice and learn much; becoming stronger in skill and ability.

**LAYER 4:** People who have trained extensively in their area of skill, much practiced and confident at a high level, from which they will continue to mature. They have invested much personal resource in this journey. These people have a specific commission to use their craft for areas such as worship, intercession, writing, teaching, film-making, architecture, etc. They can be called to any one of the seven mountains. This layer needs people of perseverance and hard work - qualities displayed for us by figures like Joseph.

### A TOUCH OF THE X-FACTOR<sup>6</sup>

If we are to re-establish value for the arts and creativity within the church, then layers need to be defined. The world does not equate the nursery with a PhD and neither should we.

**No layer of the spectrum is less valuable than any other.** Indeed, through the general release of creative DNA, a scientist may spark world-shaking discoveries. The point is to restore definition to the arts as well, so they can rediscover specific purpose as God intended.

Sometimes we encourage creativity to remain at an immature and stunted level in our Christian communities because we feel it is not acceptable to challenge any offering, or challenge someone to invest practice and education in the skill they are so eager to use publicly. But we would not accept that from someone learning to play in the band, or someone learning to preach. We would call them higher with love, encourage training and point them towards presence instead of performance.

**Equally, people become discouraged and stop creating if you never make them feel that their creative offerings are valuable and worth calling upward, so we need to steer through the layers.**

**Artistic gifts need to be matured, just as spiritual gifts need to be matured; it takes time and application.** The training for an artistic career can sometimes be harder than for other subjects because of fierce competition for places and accolades, the long hours involved and the weight of its lower value in our societies; many give up. But God calls us to be people of dedication and training (2 Timothy 2:15).

## SKILL VERSUS KINGDOM

Art history runs from the great masters painting ethereal works to ludicrous toilet seat installations that hold little message, yet receive great acclaim. **Through such a confusing parade of standards, the enemy has devalued art and creativity.**

**We are not to measure the standards of Kingdom art by the nonsensical art in the world.**

We can see the hand of God connecting with works across the years that leave us awe-struck with their depth and extraordinary mastery of skill. The connection between God and the artist is authenticated in such masterpieces as the Sagrada Familia by Antoni Gaudi or The fighting Temeraire by JMW Turner.<sup>7</sup>

**Artisans need to advance in two main areas: Kingdom qualities and skill.**

## POSITIONING

Future Kingdom art should encapsulate divine,  
end-time purpose

**God's artisans must strive for distinction in all that they do. This is completely different from perfectionism.** It is a joyfully liberating adventure to work with, through, and in the Spirit of God.

We bring the skills we have to the altar and approach the throne of grace with boldness; we can ask for favor and for accelerated development through the hours of offered effort (Hebrews 4:6).

## BUSINESS

Creative people who want to produce art forms with Kingdom-collaboration must beware having wrong motives for business.

God will not bring us electrifying blueprints so we can make a success for ourselves in business through money or applause. Even though we may not believe that to be our aim, we need to check our motives very carefully and regularly, even the ones deeply embedded in our heart.

This is not to say that God will not bring business success and financial provision through creativity, but if self-seeking motives begin to bleed into our underlying purpose, then the gauge will tip into the red.

**As the new heavenly innovation starts to fall in drops of wisdom and ingenuity, then we need to learn how to steward it.**

**Purity is a custodian of glory.** Purity will steer us through the many options vying for our attention. Peace signposts the paths of purpose.

Business acumen can work in victorious tandem with creative DNA. This arena is wide open for fresh solution; purity turns the earth ready for us to propagate new life.



**Stewarding well the day of small beginnings leads to more** (Luke 16:10).

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

## YOUTH

It is not hard to see many of the effects of the mountain of the arts on human nature and the world we live in. The drama of disaster and chaotic lives is not only found in the movies.

One area that needs consideration is the younger generation.

**Let's consider which mountain they love the most.** Their passion often lies in the mountain of the arts and entertainment, but because we do not see the value of creativity, we can think they are simply distracted by worldly pleasures. Granted, this may be true in some cases, but it is undeniable that this age-group adores all things creative.

At this stage in life they have time on their hands and fewer responsibilities, and the residing interests of their agendas can be found in sports, fashion, film, music, TV, dance and many other areas of this mountain.

**Media and technology have become main forms of communication.**

Notes passed across the classroom have been replaced by photos and messages sent all over the world, and a huge web of social networking has formed through media like Facebook and Twitter, particularly within this age bracket.

There are so many creative ways to connect with others that go beyond a few words on a blank sheet of paper.

Many young people suffer from a lack of self-worth. Powerlessness makes us search for empowerment, but again the world offers no power with any life at its kernel.

## POSITIONING

### STATISTICS

Asking God to show us how to bring new creativity and allow increasing freedom for the Holy Spirit to move and breathe into our churches will help to turn the younger generation back to God

But let's be prepared that this may not look like a throng coming into our existing church buildings alone; creativity means something new, and the space of reception needs to be expanded.

### EYES FORWARD

As we forge ahead with these discoveries in various nations, I believe it is very important to reach out across the geographical boundaries where God shows us to link forces.

New combinations of the arts and creativity, throughout many spheres, will become important, not only for breaking individualism, but also for bringing something from heaven's store-house that will completely surprise us. These combinations will bring new considerations and give us the capacity to see solution where we could not see them before.

We can release the Kingdom arts and artisans like firefighters in our communities, to inflame the creative forces of heaven that bring us ability and answers

New art works will emerge that will rise above visual stimulation as the focus, above the message as the focus, and their ethereal form will reveal God in blatant wonder. Even the world will struggle to deny His hand.

Some works will be formed to release the power of purity right into the heart of places where there is none, and darkness will fall from peoples' slaves.

**Consider that art/creative works can go where people cannot, and then remember the power of impartation.**

We must allow God to make us ready for what is coming, to deepen our dependence on Him.

**2 Kings 6: 16-17** *'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'* And Elisha prayed, and said, 'Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

The forces of heaven are poised to help us become part of the changes that must take place.

**The return of the creative DNA to God's people provides firepower to excel.** The creative power of God will prophesy what lies ahead, as the world systems shake and the gospel message magnifies in the earth, heading towards the end of days. We must grasp that the Lord is coming to change His church into a warrior bride: formidable, phenomenal, creative ... limitless.

## WARRIOR BRIDE

Karen Beaton<sup>8</sup>

Body open wide

Wearing -

Nothing that will become tied to this world

Eyes open wide

Naked -

Adam first born opening eyes to the new

Step open wide

Leap -

Take the dance of faith off mountain high

Favour open wide

Take -

With you only weapons of the Creator

## POSITIONING

Hands open wide

Painted -

Royal blue tattooed symbols of heaven's love

Arms open wide

Ready -

For battle carry the heart of our King

Soul open wide

Spirit -

Prepare holy warrior of strength and honour

Love open wide

Grace -

Heaven sent songs of victory for men's souls

Mind open wide

Trained -

Mature to bleed for those far from home

Walls open wide

Sword -

Steel and enemy flames can't cut us down

Heart open wide

White -

Holy Fire forge broken heart with heaven's love

Spirit open wide

Trinity -

Filled 'Holy Warrior Bride' in armour pure gold

**EXERCISE: WARRIOR**

Let God show you what you look like as a warrior from His perspective.

Write down your answers.

What do you look like? Describe what you are wearing

What is He showing you about the weapons you hold in your hand?

What do they look like?

What is their purpose?

What encouragement is God giving you to go and do something with what you have learned?



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# GOD'S KINGDOM CONTINUES TO ADVANCE....

If you have ever walked through an armoury of the Spirit, the weapons may have surprised you. Amongst the classic swords and shields did anyone happen to see a song, a paint brush or a dancers shoe, a skilful spreadsheet, an architect's plans or a business strategy?

From the shelves of heaven the creative mandate is being dusted off and returned to the earth. Timely defining of our creative DNA lies in God's outstretched hand. There are two directives: there is the general outpouring of Kingdom Creativity available to all believers to energize their lives and areas of influence producing new solution, strategy and innovation. There is also the calling of the Creative Warriors, the artisans who combine skill and anointing for specific reason. The hour strikes a wakeup call for both and their intertwining purposes in the nations. Strategic objectives in the times that lie ahead.

This course seeks to unpack those directives, blowing away the foggy mists of forgotten purpose, revealing one of the greatest weapons bestowed upon the church, the creative power of God.

As soon as we hear the word 'creativity', we often step aside and open the door for 'arty people'. BUT God planted a creative DNA in every single one of us; the bible resounds with proof. Through Joseph and Daniel, David and Solomon, genius was evident that we have grown to know and respect. However, what we may not realise is this genius fully activated their God given creative DNA. We have lost the understanding of what this is, it was gifted to us to use as a glorious weapon –a firepower so that God's people could excel to help a world that so desperately needs the creative ideas and solutions of heaven.

*“Without a doubt we live in an era of the revival of spiritual gifts and arts of every kind. The insights, lessons learned, and revelations received, make Limitless a handbook for every believer, an invitation to step onto the platform of creative expression of the beauty, gifts, and power of God's Spirit now.”*

**Bonnie Chavda** Co-Founder Senior Pastor of All Nations Church and The Watch of the Lord, USA

*“Limitless is for all those who in their hearts have said "YES!" to Jesus even before they have heard His question. It is a catalyst to release the waves of creative Kingdom thinking and living which will bring in the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen.”*

**Alan McWilliam** Chairman of CLAN, Scotland

